



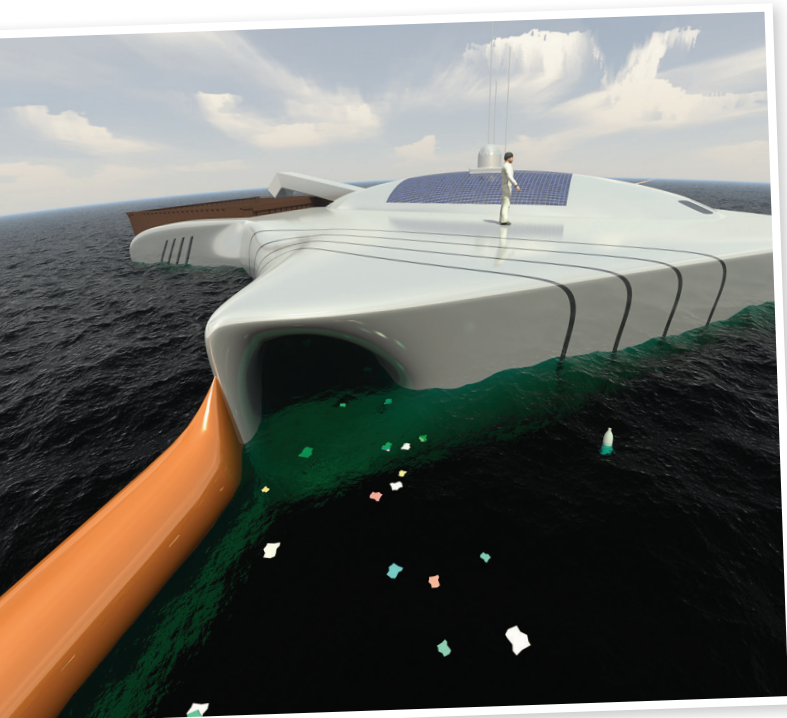
READING Time

1. Read the article below and find out more about Boyan Slat's project.

Global ocean clean-up

No one really has any idea what kind of pollution is going on in our oceans today. It is easy to turn a blind eye, though in certain areas of the world, where plastic bags and bottles are strewn along the shoreline, it's hard to ignore. It is the kind of issue that leaves you wondering what you can do personally to effect global change.

5 One 19-year-old boy came up with a solution. Boyan Slat is a young inventor and he has created something that he says can give us clean oceans globally in only 5 years.



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Would you believe something like 20 billion tons of plastic brewing out in the world's oceans? That's about right. They even have a name for one big pile of
10 garbage accumulating out there in the Pacific Ocean. It's called the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" and it's getting worse every year. In fact, over the past 40 years it has multiplied one hundred fold, according to a study reported by NBC news.

15 Slat's design includes some floating booms which would suck all this plastic into it much in the same way as a funnel works. There are plastic processing plants out there in the ocean, though much of the garbage never reaches it. Slat's booms would suck
20 all the plastic and then direct it to these processing plants. These plants separate the material, releasing that which is natural and recycling everything else. If his idea works, it is estimated that the world's oceans could be free of this floating garbage, clean
25 again in as little as only 5 years.

Boyan wrote a paper on his idea in school, which was then recognized and given Best Technical Design in 2012 from the Delft University of Technology. Since his award, Boyan Slat started a non-profit organization to work on the project and get it going, called *The Ocean Clean-up Foundation*. His idea is connected to ocean and solar powered
30 energy. It would save many fish and other aquatic species which are threatened by the current condition of the oceans. His foundation will raise money and work on the actual immediate implementation of the project so the oceans can start cleaning up as soon as possible. Much of the oxygen we breathe on the planet comes from the marine phytoplankton, more than from all the forests on the earth. If the oceans suffer, we
35 do too. Perhaps it is high time to take the ideas of our youth more seriously and open ourselves up to the possibility that we are just around the corner from total global solutions.

Stasia Bliss, "Global Ocean Clean-up in Only 5 years?" <http://guardianlv.com> (adapted and abridged), accessed in December 2013