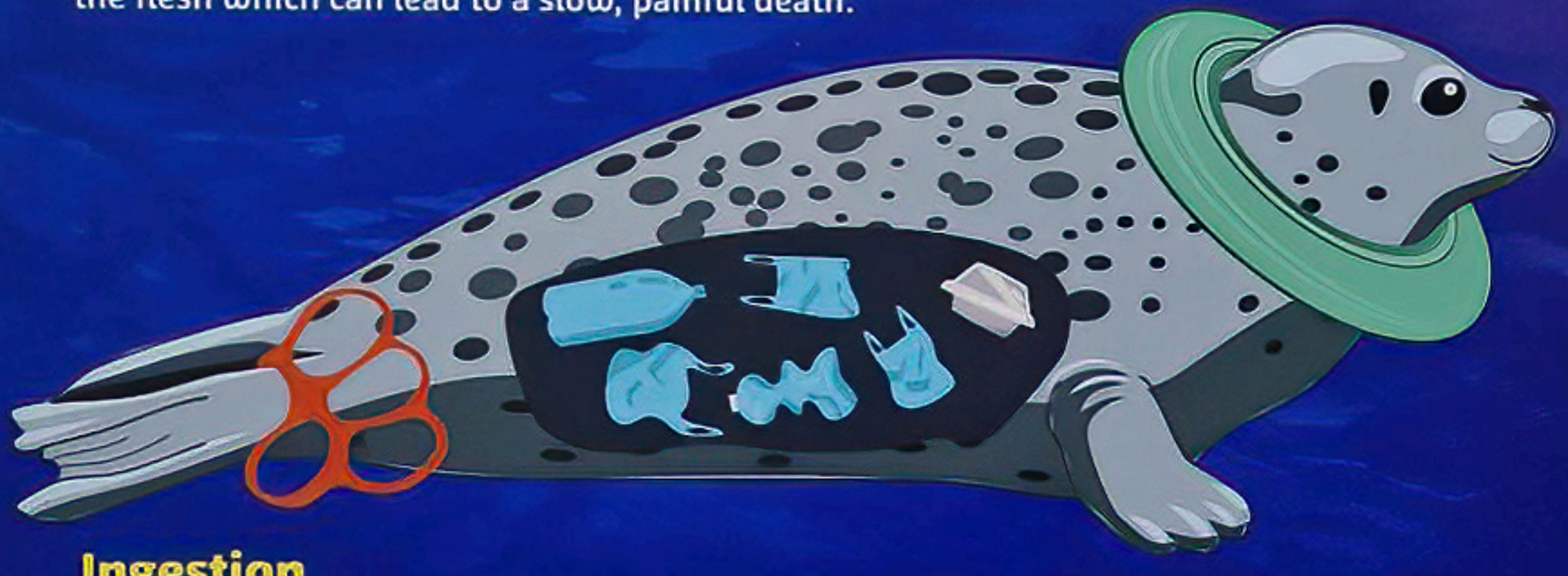
Seals and Plastic Pollution

Microplastics, abandoned fishing gear and other plastic pollution are among our biggest environmental threats. It's hurting sea animals and making them sick.

Entanglement

Seals are curious creatures, and can accidentally become entangled in plastic waste such as ring-frisbees or discarded fishing nets. This entanglement normally occurs around the neck. If it is a young seal it will become tighter and tighter as the seal grows, eventually cutting into the flesh which can lead to a slow, painful death.



Ingestion

Seals are vulnerable to the risk of ingesting pieces of plastics such as plastic bags. If a seal eats this rubbish they will be unable to digest it, eventually building up inside them, resulting in a weaker appetite and decreasing their intake of proper nutritional food. This could even cause a blockage which could be fatal.

Microplastics

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles that result from the breakdown of plastic in the ocean and contain toxic chemicals. Microplastics travel through the food chain from small invertebrates and fish, eventually reaching the top predator – the seal. Increasing the chance of disease and lowering their fertility levels.