



# PROJECT OCEANOLOGY

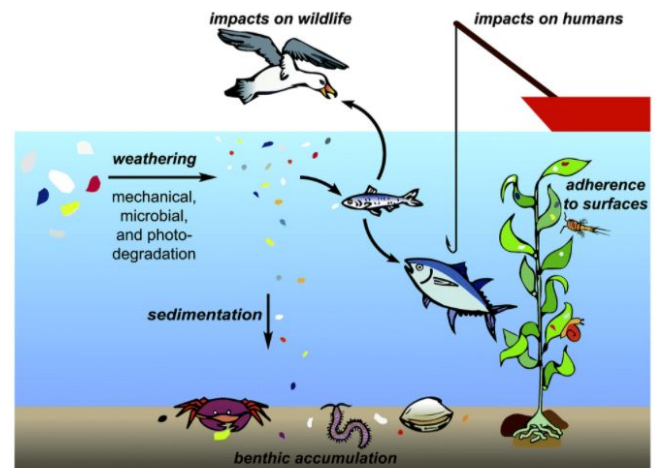


## Facebook Live: Gull Rookery & Marine Debris

South Dumpling Island is home to breeding colonies, or *rookeries*, of a variety of seabirds, including Great Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gulls, Double-Crested Cormorants, Common Eiders, and more.

1. Why is this a good location for seabirds to build their nests? Describe *at least two* reasons.
2. The black-backed gulls like to build inconspicuous nests on rocky ground, and lay mottled-brown colored eggs. Double-crested cormorants like to build their nests atop ridges or in trees, and lay pale blue eggs. Which bird do you think spends more time sitting on the nest? Explain your reasoning.

3. Marine debris can kill seabirds like the ones nesting at South Dumpling, usually by entanglement or ingestion. Use the infographic to generate an explanation of how a plastic water bottle littered in the watershed could end up in the belly of a seagull chick.



Source: *Scientific American*