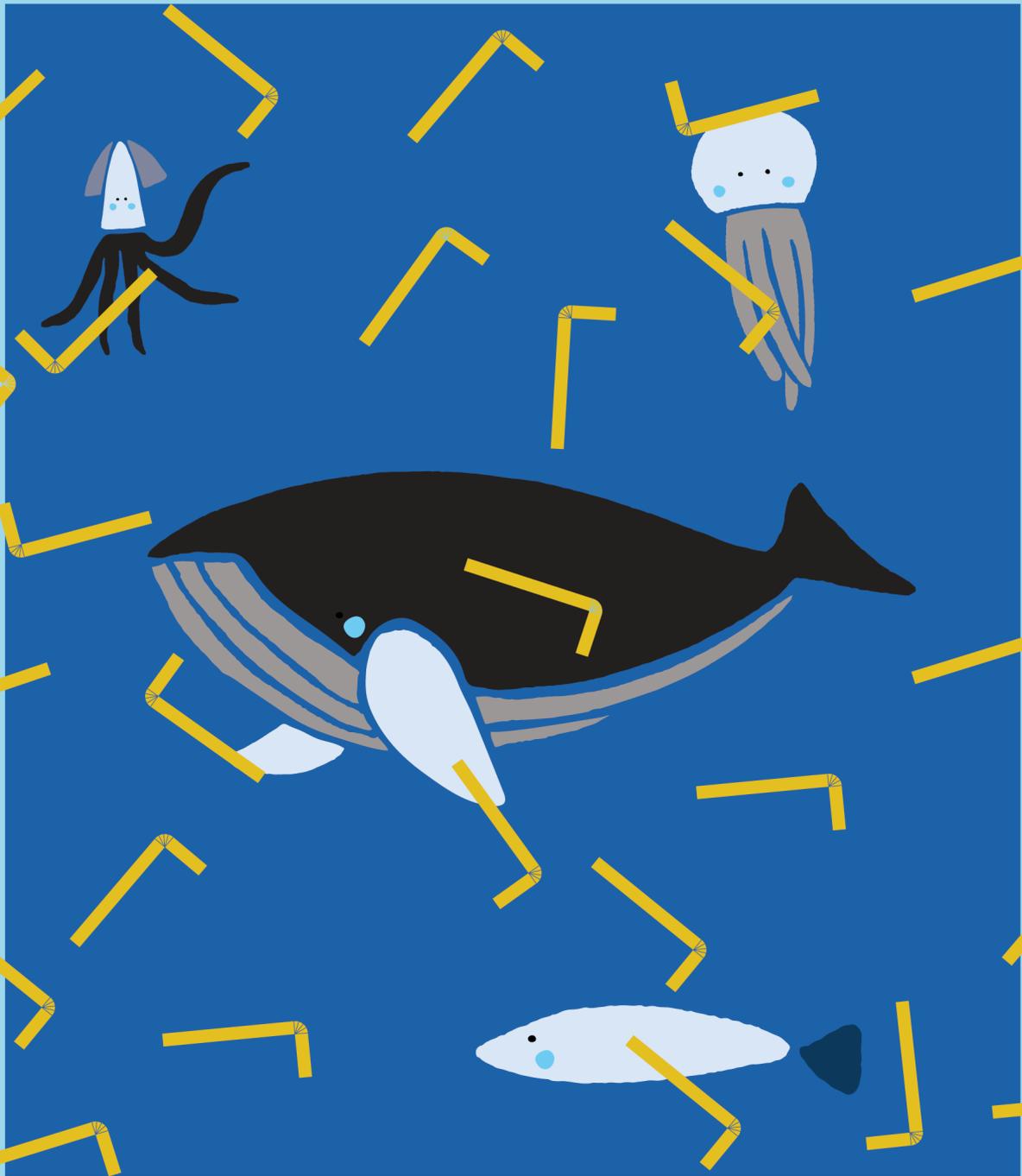


# STRAW FREE SEPTEMBER



Our Seas Our Future (OSOF) is a marine conservation organisation working to protect New Zealand's coastal and marine ecosystems through advocacy, education and environmental stewardship, ensuring that they are managed sustainably and protected for future generations.

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# STRAW FREE SEPTEMBER

## Straw Free September™

**Straw Free September™** is a social media campaign run by Our Seas Our Future to encourage businesses, and the general public to pledge stopping single-use straw use for a month, with a goal to adopt the change.

## Why focus on Straws?

The use of single-use plastic straws has only increased globally since its invention. In 2019, New Zealanders were estimated to have consumed around 200 million plastic straws<sup>1</sup>.

The New Zealand government has a plan to reduce single-use plastics such as plastic straws, tableware (plates, bowls, cutlery), and cotton buds, and is proposing to phase them out by 2025<sup>2</sup>. We don't have to wait until 2025 or beyond to take action on New Zealand's growing waste problem. While it may seem overwhelming to cut out all single-use plastics at once, we can take small achievable steps. The 'low hanging fruit' like the plastic single-use straw is an easy way to make more sustainable and environmentally friendly choices.

## How can I help?

- Ask your bartender or waiter 'no straw please' with your drinks. Every less straw makes a difference to the ocean's health.
- Take snaps at your favourite places who help reduce straw waste. We want to get to know them, and you! Make sure you hashtag #StrawFreeSeptember.
- Bring your own! There are heaps of New Zealand companies selling alternative options that you can carry on the go. We have some great **partners** who make plastic straw alternatives.
- Ask your favourite establishment to go Straw Free! There are alternatives they can offer such as metal straws.
- Share our page/post to get your friends and family to go Straw Free too!

## Why Straw Free September™?

By 2050, it is predicted that the ocean will have more plastic than fish<sup>3</sup>. Plastic straws are one of the top 10 items collected from beach cleanups<sup>4</sup>. Millions of straws end up in the ocean every year, polluting the water, **posing a danger to sea turtles**, seabirds, fish and other sea life.

Pollution is one of the biggest issues facing our oceans and coasts. An estimated 4.8 to 12.7 million metric tons of plastic entered the oceans in 2010 from people living within 50 kilometres of the coast in 192 countries.<sup>5</sup>

You can take action against plastic pollution, starting with plastic straws this September and beyond. Join the movement against single-use plastic straws and take action by refusing to use them, and encouraging others to do the same.



Reusable metal straws are great alternatives to plastic ones.

## References

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