

**Problem-1: Physics, Pools, and Plastics (2)**  
MAST-602, Fall 2008, Andreas Münchow

**U.S. EPA honors six Southern California environmental heroes**

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(04/14/08) SAN FRANCISCO -- During the agency's 10th annual Environmental Awards Ceremony in San Francisco today, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri presented plaques to six organizations and individuals throughout Southern California in recognition of their efforts to protect and preserve the environment in 2007 ...

Captain Charles Moore, Algalita Marine Research Foundation, Long Beach, CA

Approximately 3.5 million tons of marine debris float in the Pacific Ocean in an area known as the “great Pacific garbage patch.” Captain Charles Moore and the organization he founded, the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, are quantifying and researching the impacts of this body of marine plastics debris -- approximately twice the size of Texas. Capt. Moore documents that the large quantity of plastics block sunlight and prohibits photosynthesis of plankton, the largest food supply for marine animals in the area. While some debris originates from oceanic vessels, 80 percent of the ocean’s litter originates on land and travels by current to the area. Moore’s research is educating oceanographers and leading to increased public awareness about the quantity and severity of marine debris. His established protocols will minimize the amount of future plastic debris.

*Prepare the scientific arguments for a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles for polluting Hawaiian waters with trash which may impact local beaches, Laysan Albatross and future tourism.*

*What scientific proof in the form of data and theories may you need to present in your claim to be argued before a federal judge?*

*What arguments do you expect the lawyers arguing for the City of Los Angeles and their scientific advisors to make?*