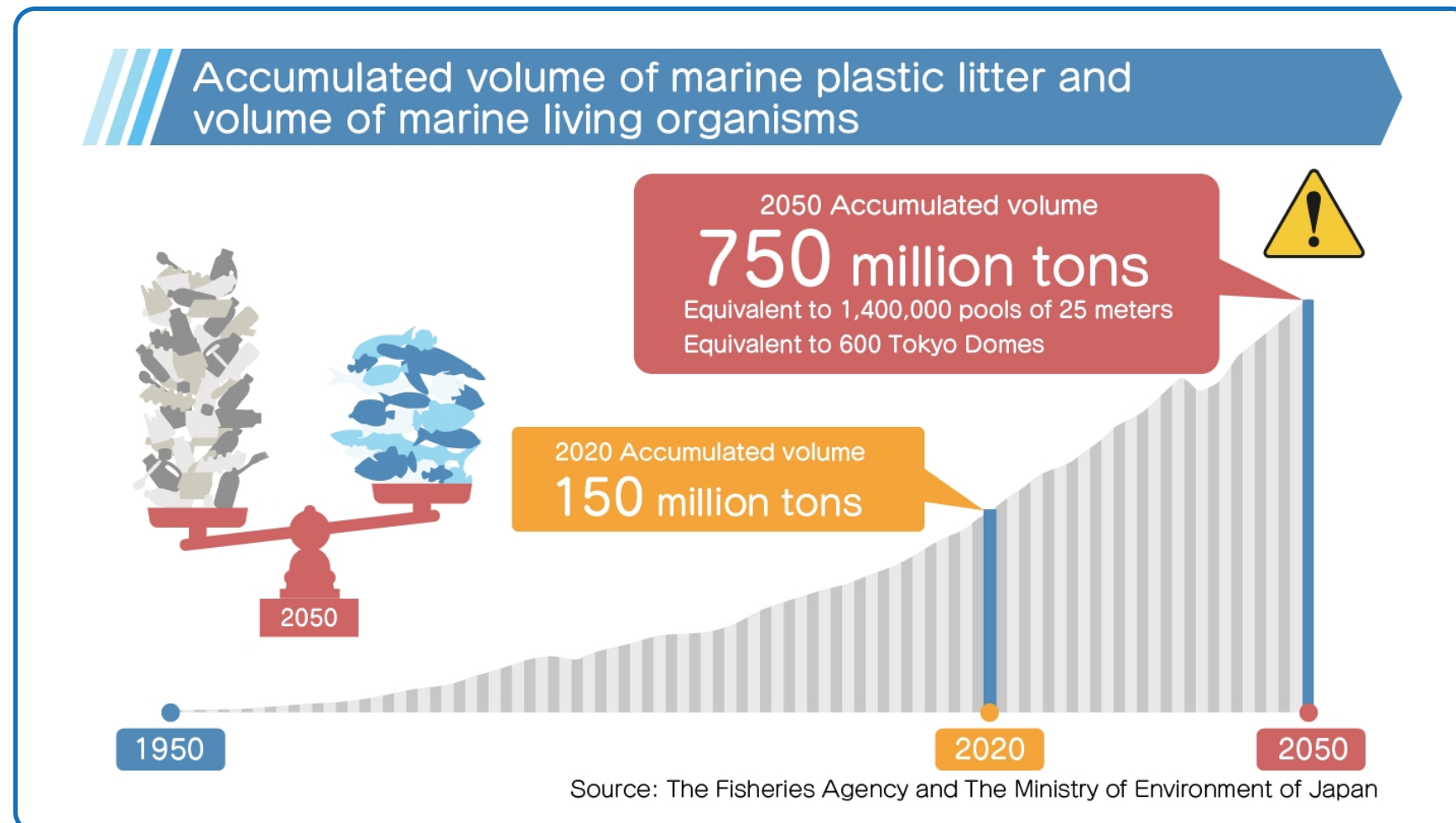


Other issues of concern regarding the sea environment

Nowadays, marine plastic litter is abundant and in the rise



Plastic litter flowing into the ocean every year

8 million tons(estimation)

An estimation of the accumulated volume of plastic litter in the ocean by the year 2050

Since 1950 until today:
150 million tons(estimation)

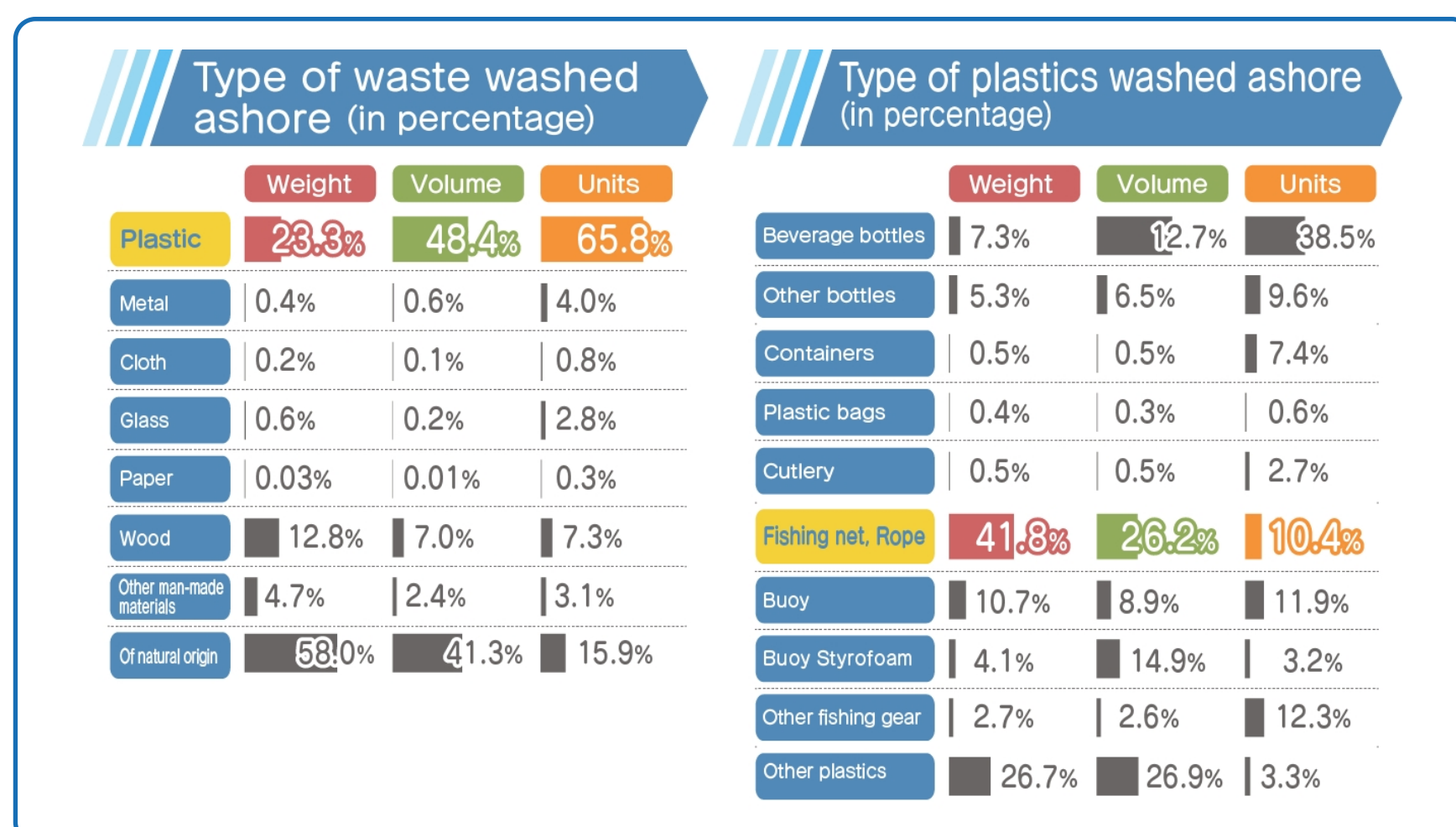
In the year 2050:
750 million tons(estimation)

The weight of plastic litter surpasses that of the ocean living organisms

Nowadays, an estimated 8 million tons of plastic litter enter the ocean every year. Since 1950 until today, an estimated 150 million tons plastic litter has flown or has been discharged into the ocean; if this trend is not reversed, an estimated 750 million tons of plastic litter will have entered the seas by the year 2050. At this point, in weight terms, the volume of plastic litter will surpass that of marine life.

Source: Data published by The Fisheries Agency and The Ministry of Environment of Japan

40% of all litter washed ashore on the coast of Japan is made of fishing nets and ropes



Percentage by type of waste washed ashore

In number of items, about 65.8% of all items being washed ashore are made of plastic.

Variety of plastic litter being washed ashore

40% of plastic litter is made of fishing nets and ropes

Of all the waste reaching the Japanese coast, in terms of units, the largest item is plastic; besides, plastic also accounts for an important share in terms of weight and volume. Within the plastic waste group, particularly worrying are fishing nets and ropes because these items do not decompose easily, and, due to its weight, they are difficult to retrieve from the sea.

(Method of research used to obtain the data)

*1 During the period 2010-2015 research was carried out at 5 locations, and in 2016 research took place at 5 other locations; therefore, this data is not representative of all the coast of Japan. *2 In each of these 10 locations research was conducted on 50 meters of coast line. *3 Styrofoam found in pieces or very small decomposed bits, has not been taken into consideration.

Ministry of Environment: Data from September 2018 https://www.env.go.jp/water/marine_litter/conf/02_02doukou.pdf

