



INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Boyan Slat

FOUNDER OF OCEAN CLEANUP

Boyan Slat was born in the Netherlands. When he was out diving one day, at age 16, he noticed he was finding more plastic than fish. This inspired him to make ocean plastic pollution the subject of a high school project.

After school, he went to study aerospace engineering at University. He left before he finished to continue his high school idea to build a way to catch plastics in the ocean.

In 2013, when he was 19, Boyan founded The Ocean Cleanup. They aimed to clear the Great Pacific Garbage Patch within 5 years using ocean currents to collect plastic waste.

However, as with any bold new invention, things weren't quite so easy. After many different tries, in 2019 they finally collected and retained ocean plastic for the first time.

They've had more success with their solar powered plastic collector in some of the world's most polluted rivers. Their Interceptor boat in Malaysia can extract nearly 50 tonnes of plastic a day!

