

## **PLASTIC STRAWS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**Ocean Basket is a large seafood restaurant franchise in South Africa which has banned the use of plastic straws at its restaurants as well as plastic bags for take aways. It will also push for a similar ban in its restaurants in the rest of Africa, notably Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Their advertisement is as follows. "The Last Straw. In an effort to save our seas, we will no longer be giving straws with drinks and bags with take aways. Straws and plastic bags are some of the leading causes of pollution in our oceans. Join us in putting an end to this. Drink without a straw, and grab your take-away without a bag."**

**A fairly large number of restaurants in Cape Town and Durban, both coastal cities, have also taken this on and have begun phasing out plastic straws. A few restaurants in Johannesburg and Pretoria are also beginning to join this movement. Alternatives are being suggested and, in some cases, manufactured. These are metal, bamboo, glass and paper straws.**

**The Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town has also embarked on an intensive education programme around plastic drinking straws and bags.**

**I have also written to McDonalds headquarters in South Africa as well as to Mugg and Bean inviting them to join this very important movement away from plastic drinking straws.**