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What Goes Around, Floats Around

In the summer of 2028, the ice pack over the North Pole melted completely for the first time in recorded history. The Transpolar Sea Route was suddenly a reality, complementing the existing Northeast Passage, Northwest Passage, Northern Sea Route, and the Arctic Bridge. Environmentalists were none too happy about it. Neither were the polar bears. They grew fatigued from constantly treading water and eventually drowned. But the shipping industry was ecstatic. That is, until just two years later, when the Great Pacific Garbage Patch drifted from its home in the north-central Pacific completely filling up the Arctic Ocean.