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Background

CCB's work on marine litter within 2015 has focused on two main areas:

- Micro plastics: sources, effects and prevention
- Enabling monitoring: Training and use of existing monitoring tools to increase knowledge and data on beach litter

Preliminary results of this work are presented in this document. The CCB's Overview of mobile applications (apps) designed to help fighting marine litter problem is also attached to this document.

Within 2016-2017, CCB plans to continue wide public awareness raising on the issue of marine litter, with a further focus given to stormwater management, as well as riverine inputs and sources of microplastics from other products (e.g. paints).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note the attached information in relation to discussions on implementation of the HELCOM RAP ML.

Update on CCB's work in the field of marine litter

Micro plastics: sources, effects and prevention

Involved NGOs from Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Russia and Belarus took part in a workshop on microplastics in Bremen, Germany, on July 4th 2015. There, the project goals and outcomes were discussed and information on product research had been given to ensure same approach. Every NGO agreed on compiling a list with international and national personal care and cosmetic products (PCCP) containing microplastics, which can be bought in shops and online-shops in each country. Research on products was either done online or in shops. The collected lists include information on companies, product names, plastic types and producers. Furthermore, texts on general facts and environmental problems of marine litter/microplastics in the marine environment, based on international studies, were prepared as information brochure and for the website publication. The brochure text was provided in English by BUND/Friends of the Earth Germany and had been translated into national languages by NGOs. The brochure layout was done by a layout designer in Bremen, Germany, and the printing by a company in Vilnius, Lithuania. Furthermore, a campaign logo 'Plastic Free Baltic' was designed. The microplastic types had been chosen in regard to the study of H. A. Leslie 'A Review on Microplastics in Cosmetics' published in July 2014. Following microplastic ingredients were addressed in this project:

- Polyethylene
- Polypropylene
- Polyethylene-terephthalate
- Nylon-12
- Nylon-6
- Polyurethane
- Acrylates Copolymer

Project progress has been monitored by a Project Leader from Germany and supervised by a Working Area Leader for Hazardous Substances and Marine Litter from CCB Secretariat. Additional project meetings were carried out remotely (by Skype) as well as in relation to other CCB events in order to avoid unnecessary travels.

The website www.ccb.se/plasticfreebaltic provides general information in English on the effects of microplastics in the marine environment and on functions of addressed microplastic ingredients. The information brochure is available as printed version and as web download in

English, www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-eng.pdf

Swedish, www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-swe2.pdf

Finish, www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-fin2.pdf

Russian, www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-ru.pdf

Estonian, www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-est.pdf

Latvian www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-let.pdf

Polish www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-pol2.pdf

and Lithuanian www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-lit.pdf

as well as for Belarus: www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Mikroplastikccb-by.pdf (also in Russian).

The product lists of each country are available as web download. The lists will be regularly updated by national NGO's. In addition to it, NGOs made a national campaign for awareness rising and spreading information to a variable extent (see below).

Lithuania: Volunteers were briefed on product research for compiling data. Over 1000 products had been assessed; current list contains ~ 500 products. Furthermore, local producers and retailers had been addressed, a movie on visualizing microplastics in PCCP by filtration was done as well as an information text published on website.

www.ccb.se/evidence2015/DraftProduct_List_Lithuania.pdf

Poland: Current list contains ~ 300 products and a national program was established to assess the scale of contamination and impact of anthropogenic waste on the Baltic Sea.

www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Product_List_Poland.pdf

Sweden/Finland: Product list is still in progress. Articles on the topic of microplastics had been published in local newspapers.

Estonia: Current list contains ~ 200 products (www.ccb.se/evidence2015/Product_List_Estonia.pdf).

Information on microplastics had been published on social media and NGO website. Furthermore, a radio interview on the topic was given in „NÕMMERAADIO“ channel.

Latvia: Schoolchildren from 18 rural schools were involved in cosmetic survey. Current list contains ~ 400 products and a movie on microplastics in PCCP was done.

Russia (St.Petersburg/Kaliningrad): Current list contains ~ 150 products. NGO made awareness rising campaign among Russian-speaking audience for the distribution of the brochure combined with a press conference involving environmentalists, water management officials and cosmetic producers.

www.ccb.se/evidence2015/DraftProduct_List_Russia.pdf

Belarus:

Center for Environmental Solutions started a small project on marine litter inputs and awareness in 2015, that created a lot of media and public interest; marine litter brochure was updated and adapted to local conditions; a mobile app on hazardous chemicals also contains information about microplastics (<http://chemicals.ecoidea.by/>); infographics for school children was elaborated also raising attention to microplastics problem

www.ccb.se/evidence2015/DraftProduct_List_Belarus.pdf

The work performed was communicated to various national (ministries and environmental protection agencies) and international bodies (HELCOM, EUSBSR). Within HELCOM it has been addressed to HELCOM HOD and HELCOM PRESSURE Groups in June and October 2015. The final results of the 2015 campaign will be presented at HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on Marine Litter to be held in March 2016, in relation to the annual meeting of the Helsinki Commission.

Enabling monitoring: Training and use of existing monitoring tools to increase knowledge and data on beach litter

The work was performed in close cooperation with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) that has initiated pan-European network of NGOs working in the field of marine litter. It was mainly devoted to initiation of joint actions across Europe addressing marine litter problem, raising awareness of issue among the stakeholders, as well as utilising joint platform and a mobile tool/smartphone app to work on collection of data on marine litter occurring along the sea coasts in participating countries (MarineLitter Watch/MLW http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/coast_sea/marine-litterwatch).

Participants of these activity from the CCB network (CCB Secretariat and BUND, Germany) were introduced to MLW and trained how to use it at a workshop in May 2015, hosted by the EEA. Then the information on the use and applicability of the MLW was disseminated through the CCB network mostly using electronic media, promoting the use of a tool in national marine litter monitoring and clean-ups. Some information about the MLW was also disseminated to CCB members in relation to other CCB events and campaigns, e.g. the microplastic campaign (cf. 2.2.A). However, due to already available tools that are used nationally in different countries, it was not applied evenly within 2015 through the whole network. Realising that variety of similar tools (including [mobile apps](#)) are available for public use, a complementary activity a compilation of information on such available tools was initiated through the CCB network, both addressing the monitoring apps (both for clean-up and smart product selection), as well as those for raising awareness and influencing behavioural change. A short information brochure about those apps was compiled by CCB Secretariat with a view to be presented to various pan-Baltic regional fora, e.g. HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on Marine Litter to be held in March 2016. The CCB's work on marine litter (both monitoring and microplastics) was presented to HELCOM HOD and PRESSURE Groups in June and October 2015.

Due to the need of further training and compilation of baseline data it was suggested by the EEA, as a joint platform provider, that actual pan-European coordinated clean-ups will be performed only in 2016