



Document title	Cooperation between European Regional Sea Conventions on RAP ML implementation
Code	3-1
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	3 –Marine litter
Submission date	7.9.2016
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016, para. 3.5

Background

PRESSURE 4-2016 stressed the importance of cooperation between European Regional Sea Conventions (RSC) to exchange experience and to discuss progress in the implementation of regional action plans and identify areas for joined action ([Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016](#), para. 3.5).

This document contains information of the output of the informal meeting on cooperation on Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter (RAP ML) across Regional Sea Conventions (RSC) held 30 June 2016 in Madeira.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and provide a feedback on the collaboration plan.

Cooperation between European Regional Sea Conventions on RAP ML implementation

An informal meeting on cooperation on Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter (RAP ML) across Regional Sea Conventions (RSC) held 30 June 2016 in Madeira.

List of participants

- France: Francois Galgani, Sarah Sananes;
- Germany: Stefanie Werner;
- Spain: Víctor Escobar Paredes, Marta Martínez-Gil;
- Sweden: Johanna Eriksson;
- OSPAR Secretariat: John Mouat;
- MEDPOL: Tatjana Hema;
- HELCOM Secretariat: Marta Ruiz (on-line participation)

Agenda

The agenda of the Meeting is included as **Annex 1**.

Output

The output of the informal Meeting were the following conclusions together with the collaboration plan included in **Annex 2**:

- to substitute the main events table by the use of the calendar in the basecamp. The Secretariats would include the general information and the CPs would add any specific event that could be interesting for the others;
- to use the basecamp from now on for communication. Please check if anybody is lacking. Specially Tatjana to provide John the list of people from UNEP/MAP to be included;
- to send common comments on the project on turtles to the coordinator. This is done. The proposal is now growing;
- next meeting to be organised between February and June if possible. There are already 3 meetings (back to back option): UNEP/MAP CORMON, HELCOM PRESSURE, OSPAR ICG-ML. Probably Germany would facilitate contents and chair next time.

Annex 1 - Agenda of the informal meeting

Informal meeting on cooperation on Marine Litter across RSC***Funchal, 30th June, 2016*****Venue:** SRARN Meeting Room*Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e Recursos Naturais**Rua Dr. Pestana Júnior, n.º 6 – 5.º Andar****Draft agenda*****9.00.** Welcome and introduction to the objectives of the meeting*The meeting aims to keep participants informed in developments in the three RSC and look jointly for opportunities for cooperation in the process***9.15.** Update on the RSC main developments

- OSPAR
Outcomes of the ICG-ML (28-29 June, Funchal). Outcomes of the Microplastics Conference (9-10 December 2015)
John Mouat. Deputy Secretary. OSPAR Commission
- Barcelona
Marine Litter project in the MED, funded by the EU
Tatjana Hema. Coordination Unit. UNEP/MAP
- HELCOM (*on-line participation*)
HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on Marine Litter 2016
Marta Ruiz. Associate Professional Secretary. HELCOM Commission

Update from other main international events

- MICRO2016. 25-27 May 2016 (François Galgani. IFREMER (France))
- European Conference on Plastics in Freshwater Environments. 21-22 June 2016 (Stefanie Werner. Federal Environment Agency (UBA). Germany)
- Other (i.e. United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea Seventeenth Meeting. 13 - 17 June 2016 Panel "Marine debris, plastics and microplastics")

10.30. Coffee break**11.00.** Reaching coherence in complying with two Marine Litter Regional Plans. Experience from Contracting Parties

- Spain: The national Programme of Measures for marine litter
Marta Martínez-Gil. Division for the Protection of the Sea. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment
- Germany: The national Programme of Measures for marine litter
Stefanie Werner. Federal Environment Agency (UBA). Germany

11.30. Discussion on priorities for cooperation, progress and way forward**12.30.** Lunch**14.00.** Discussion on priorities for cooperation, progress and way forward**15.30.** Proposal for a Coordinated project on indicator 10.2.1 (10DC3), using sea turtles as a target species (OSPAR region IV, Western Mediterranean and Macaronesia)

Presented by France

16.00. Conclusions, next steps in process

17.00. Closure of the meeting

Annex 2 - Collaboration plan– June 2016

Common actions – Regional Plans	Priority	Existing Plans / Developments			Collaborative way forward	Lead
		OSPAR	UNEP/MAP	HELCOM		
Implementation of MARPOL Annex V / waste management in ports	Yes	<p>Action 30: fee systems, good practices (background doc and future Recommendation): pendant of ESSF process (avoid duplication).</p> <p>Action 34: improve implementation of ISO standard 21070:2013 in relation to port reception facilities. Product: Guidelines to facilitate and reward advanced onboard waste management (for adoption OSPAR2017).</p> <p>Actions 32, 33 and 38: inspections, fees and sanctions.</p> <p>Background/guidelines document.</p>	<p>Upgrade guidelines on port reception facilities based on MLRP and MARPOL.</p> <p>Develop a Guidance document to support CP on how to implement where appropriate special-fee system (REMPEC) and improve SW management in ports and marinas.</p> <p>To organise a regional workshop in 2018 to share best practices and review the guidance document.</p>	<p>RS3: Further work on implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea countries, addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – gaps in existing regulations, enforcement and practices concerning shipping, – port reception facilities auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection, – fair waste burden sharing between ports <p>To identify further gaps in availability of PRF for ship-generated wastes, mandatory delivery of waste and the application of the “no-special-fee” system, and propose measures to fill in these gaps, is an action to be conducted within the Work Plan for the HELCOM Maritime Working Group 2014-2016. CPs are responsible for carrying out this action. Finland as lead for HELCOM work on “no-special fee” system.</p>	<p>Share already existing materials. Possible joint document on no-special fee systems (possible joint workshop)</p> <p>OSPAR/HELCOM Background/guidelines document on inspections, fees and sanction integrates HELCOM info (share docs in development in basecamp for internal purposes)</p> <p>MAP Secretariat in collaboration of REMPEC to look at the possibilities given in the draft background document for the work in the Mediterranean on collaborative actions and decide on specific actions</p> <p>Common stakeholders workshop</p>	

Waste prevention and management (I)	Yes	<p>Actions 39 and 40: identification of circumstances on where litter “escapes” into the marine environment and investigating how to close loops. Best practice. Easy to read handout / webpage</p> <p>Action 51 (orphan action): explore with industry design developments to reduce negative impacts of products (eco-design)</p> <p>Action 49: Investigate prevalence and impact of EPS and engage with industry to make proposals.</p>	<p>Art.9.3.a Training and support Programme to promote intrapreneurship in selected smes and CSO to implement innovative solutions to prevent the generation of waste ending up as marine litter. This activity planned in 2016/2017 under Switch Project Meeting in Tirana (19-29th July) to promote best marine litter practices. All European regional seas were invited.</p> <p>EPS: Part of the activity on best practices. Collaboration with Plastic industry and across RS can further support this kind of activities</p> <p>Collect and disseminate successful case studies of companies and initiatives providing solutions to waste generation ending up as marine litter and alternatives. Activity planned in 2016/2017 (MAP/SCP-RAC)</p>	<p>RL5: Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over-packaging and promote wise packaging</p> <p>RL9: EPS: by 2017 an overview of the most significant sources of EPS ending up in the marine environment is produced, in cooperation with OSPAR. Make recommendations to the Contracting Parties on voluntary agreements with the industry on changes in product design and applying best practices when handling EPS by 2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spain will lead action 51 of the OSPAR RAP on the bases of the study to be undertaken by MAP/SCP-RAC. - Portugal will lead action 49 of the OSPAR RAP on the bases of OCEANWISE project. Contact Waste Free Ocean. - HELCOM to look at the possibilities given in this study for the work in the Baltic and decide on specific collaborative actions. 	
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Waste prevention and management (II): single-use plastic bags	New	Action 44: Reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags and their presence in the marine environment, supported by the development of quantifiable (sub)regional targets, where appropriate, and assist in the development of relevant EU initiatives	The MAP PoW has planned an important activity in 2016 to Assess and promote the use of relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the single-use of plastic bags. The meeting in Tirana, July 2016 will promote the non-single use of plastic bags as an important measures for implementation as appropriate by all Contracting Parties	RL10 Further specification: By 2018 HELCOM Contracting Parties start to coordinate and inform each other about consumption of plastic bags on an annual basis. By 2019 establish a reduction target of plastic bags. Taking into account the measures which are implemented nationally.	France is leading action 44 OSPAR RAP (scientific analysis/state of play) and share its experience on the banning of plastic bags at the Regional Meeting on the Med Regional Plan (19-20 July Tirana, Albania). UNEP/MAP to consider using French experience and promote the banning of single use of plastic bags it in the Mediterranean. HELCOM to look at the possibilities given in OSPAR study for the work in the Baltic and decide on specific collaborative actions where appropriate.	
Waste prevention and management (III): primary microplastics	Yes	Action 46: Evaluate all products and processes that include primary microplastics and act, if appropriate, to reduce their impact on the marine environment Action 47: Engage with sectors: voluntary agreement to phase out the use of microplastics as a component in personal care and cosmetic products . Should a voluntary agreement prove not to be sufficient, prepare a proposal for OSPAR to call on the EU to introduce appropriate measures to achieve a 100% phasing out of microplastics in personal care and cosmetic products. Action 51:	No specific activity envisaged. Collaboration across RS may be useful	RL6 By 2017 an overview on what products and processes contribute to the input of microplastics to the Baltic Sea, taking into account similar action within OSPAR. By 2018 existing legislation is assessed and necessary measures identified together with relevant stakeholders.	Share OSPAR outcome of ongoing overview and evaluation (sources and inputs of microplastics) Common dialogue will start by OSPAR. To integrate HELCOM and share experience with UNEP/MAP UNEP/MAP to identify sources of microplastics in the Mediterranean using the documentation available in OSPAR, HELCOM and UNEP	

Waste prevention and management (IV): other key waste items	New	Action 35. Identify the options to address key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture, which could contribute to marine litter, including deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and extended producer responsibility. Action 48: evaluate potential harm caused to the marine environment by cigarette filters, balloons, cotton buds, bio-film support media. Orphan action	Updated assessment of ML in the Mediterranean (2016) and related publication and launch at UNEA 2			
Riverine inputs / Sewage and storm water related waste (including microparticles)	No – reconsider?	Action 41: Exchange experience on best practice to prevent litter entering into water systems and highlight these to River or River basin Commissions. Progress stucked. No resources Action 42: Investigate and promote with appropriate industries the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) to develop sustainable and cost effective solutions to reducing and preventing sewage and storm water related waste entering the marine environment, including micro particles. Progress stucked	Art. 9.4. Take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter. 1. Related measures included in the NAPs 2. With regards to solid waste it is planned to undertake sharing of best practices on waste management including prevention and landfill bans of high caloric wastes (esp. for plastics). In this context the regional meeting in Tirana, July 2016 also addressed related measures in particular the banning of landfilling of plastic materials.	RL4: Improvement of stormwater management in order to prevent litter, including microlitter, to enter the marine environment from heavy weather events. Taking into consideration similar action within OSPAR. RL7 By 2018 HELCOM has compiled information, and prepared a report on micro particles removal in waste water treatment plants taking into account similar action within OSPAR. If appropriate amend HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment.	Sweden co-leading OSPAR and HELCOM action on wastewater treatment plants to share the resulting reports when available Common workshop on riverine inputs	

Fishing for litter activities (passive FFL)	Yes	<p>Action 53: Strengthen the existing OSPAR Recommendation 2010/19 on the reduction of marine litter through implementation of fishing for litter initiatives (OSPAR2016) Action 74 (CPs). Encouraging all fishing vessels to be involved in Fishing for Litter schemes, where they are available.</p>	<p>Fishing for Litter Guidelines endorsed at the COP19 in February 2016. Pilot projects under preparation to secure funding for implementing in the next four years the implementation of these guidelines in the southern Mediterranean and Adriatic countries. Coordination with GFCM sought. Involvement of key NGOs in the region is also important.</p>	<p>RS12: Enter into the partnership with international and regional organizations (e.g. KIMO, NABU, OSPAR Commission) as well as port authorities, to encourage implementation of passive Fishing for Litter schemes, to collect litter caught in fishing nets during normal fishing activities.</p>	<p>Identification of main areas for fishing litter Exchange of experience on incentives for developing fishing for litter scheme and remove the barriers to these activities To raise awareness or provide training Supporting implementation of UNEP/MAP Guidelines by sharing experience. Also OSPAR to look into a possible revision on its guidelines. Possible international conference on fishing (and aquaculture) related aspects (good practices) including fishing regional organisations</p>	
Accumulations areas/hotspots of ML (including ghost nets)	Yes	<p>Action 55: Develop subregional or regional maps of hotspots of floating ML Action 56: Identify hotspot areas of ALDFG through mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds Action 57: risk assessment for identifying where accumulations suppose a threat and should be removed</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP undertook a survey of ALDFG in 2015/2016. UNEP/MAP has planned to develop a tool in 2016/2017 that would support the identification of ML accumulation areas. Collaboration with other regional seas sought.</p>	<p>RS10: Mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds and a risk assessment for identifying where accumulation of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed. Further specification: Mapping and risk assessment as part of the assessment to be developed by HELCOM SUBMERGED by 2016. Mapping by 2017. Risk assessment by 2018. Initiate removal of ghost nets and their safe management on land.</p>	<p>Establish a common approach on accumulation areas (methodology for mapping accumulations, risk assessment tool) in collaboration with stakeholders (fisheries organizations...) and supported by research studies. Some resources available under the ML Med Project (consultation to other RSC when developing ToR. OSPAR to share methodology to identify accumulation areas (NO) MARELITT Baltic started this year. SE to share work on accumulation areas, when available</p>	

Cleanup campaigns (national, international)	Yes	Expected at the national level (Action 80: Encourage participation in International, EU and National Litter Cleanup Campaigns)	Art. 10.b. Explore and implement to the extent possible the implementation of the National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis. Expected to be implemented at the national level as part of PoM/updated NAPs.		Proposed output: - Develop a list of international initiatives (LCUE, Med coastal Day, International, EEA ...) - Exchange information available on best practices for clean-up campaigns through data base	
Public awareness and education activities / citizen science and data	Yes	Action 58: Develop marine litter assessment sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programmes , including those for professional seafarers and fishermen.	Art.16 - Support Contracting Parties in developing material for ML education programmes , including those for professional seafarers and fishermen. This activity is planned in 2016/2017	RE1: To prepare information sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programs, especially for professional seafarers including fishermen, highlighting the marine litter problem and including codes of practice in cooperation with relevant organisations including IMO.	OSPAR to check the work done by the Netherlands on action 58. To compile existing material for ML education programmes, if they fit what is needed and see what still needs to be developed	
Common tools / common ground for collaboration						
Information on RSC and CPs activities	Yes	Action 59: DB on good practice examples of ML measures and initiatives	Regional note on ML in the Med (feeding the Global Marine Litter Partnership of GPA)-2017	RE2: HELCOM website to be updated periodically based on the input from CPs on ML management activities. Further specification: 2015 initial information uploaded	share information in specific basecamp project for informal coordination across RSC Sharing best practices with GPA Developing link to existing DB of initiatives (MARLISCO, Berlin) Develop linked DB for CPs good examples of initiatives To be considered in the next meeting	

Collaboration with stakeholders and developing a long term relationship with the different regional actors	Yes		MAP is part of the Plastic Buster Project, labelled by the UfM and led by University of Sienna. MAP/BC plans to host a coordination meeting with all regional key partners working on ML including GFCM, Accobams, NGOs, Plastic Industry, SWM organisations, etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of events. Different organizers depending on the discussed topic. Focus on measures or on stakeholders types? - Identification of contacts - Developing networks - Involving RAC and regional actors in coordinated actions: priority on fisheries organization (GFCM), transport societies, port authorities - Developing background documents to develop partnerships on a thematic basis, for each category of actors to describe the activities implemented in the framework of the RSC. <p>To be considered in the next meeting</p>	
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New areas for coordination or cooperation:

- Actions for support countries with their national action plans and foster capacity building
- Need for methodologies and tools