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Background

This document contains the outcome of the Fifth European Regional Seas Coordination Meeting on the Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter held in Vrachati, Greece, on 4-5 July 2018.

Action requested

The Workshop is invited to take note of the information and make use of it as needed.

Fifth European Regional Seas Coordination Meeting on the Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter

Vrachati, Greece, 4-5 July 2018

Report of the Meeting

1. The Fifth European Regional Seas Coordination Meeting on the Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter was organized and hosted by UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Barcelona Convention Secretariat in Vrachati, Greece, on 4-5 July 2018. The meeting was attended¹ by the European Regional Seas (i.e. OSPAR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat and UN Environment/MAP), European Commission (DG ENV), Regional Office of UN Environment for Europe (ROE), UN Environment/GPA, Contracting Parties being member of more than one Regional Sea Conventions (RSC), including France (through WebEx), Germany, Spain, Turkey; and PlasticsEurope, to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter and also to discuss synergies within the implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter and related marine litter activities.

2. The Coordinator of UN Environment/MAP, Mr. Gaetano Leone welcomed very warmly the participants and provided briefly the outline of the meeting. Mr Leone invited the meeting participants for a quick *tour de table* where the participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide brief information about their role and involvement on the marine litter-related work of the organizations they were representing.

3. OSPAR, HELCOM, and UN Environment/MAP presented in a detailed and comprehensive way the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter since the previous meeting in Brussels, in November 2017, as reflected in the table provided in **Annex I** to the present report.

4. The OSPAR Commission, represented by Mr. John Mouat, updated the meeting on the implementation of their Regional Action Plan highlighting the ongoing work related to:

- The European Commission's Proposal for the revision of the Port Reception Facilities (PRF) Directive and its possible overlap with the OSPAR Regional Action Plan (RAP);
- The overview of the existing waste management practices and associated marine litter prevention strategies;

¹ The detailed list of participants is provided as **Annex II** to the present report.

- The [OceanWise project](#) which will test plausible options (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, alternative materials) to achieve better environmental outcomes within different sectors (fishing industry, food distribution, packaging);
- The strategic approach to reduce the single-use items in the OSPAR region and the specific document for plastic carrier bags that will be submitted in the next ICG-ML meeting in 2018;
- The under-preparation assessment of land-based sources of marine litter with a particular focus on microplastics and the related measures that could be proposed;
- The industry dialogue that will be held in the autumn of 2018 and the draft measure/s on reducing pellets loss; and
- The further work that OSPAR Commission is looking at related to the fisheries sector (possibly through an EU-funded project), as well as related to storm water, wastewater and sewage sludge.

5. The HELCOM Secretariat, represented by Mrs Marta Ruiz, provided a comprehensive update on the status of implementation of the HELCOM RAP on Marine Litter. The current/ongoing actions and related work (non-exhaustive list) are summarized as follows:

- Development of HELCOM guidelines on best practice routines on cleaning and collection systems;
- Sharing of best practices on waste management and improvement of storm water management;
- Compilation of all available techniques, research and development of additional techniques in Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment;
- Contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment;
- Definition and implementation of appropriate instruments and incentives to reduce the use of plastic bags and further development of deposit refund systems;
- Best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V, to the fisheries sector and related waste management;
- Identification of hot spot areas, particularly related with ALDFG and DFG and their removal.

6. The Deputy Coordinator of UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat, Mrs Tatjana Hema, presented the recent developments regarding the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, mostly related to:

- The [marine litter-related chapters](#) of the [2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report](#);
- The progress in the implementation of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project aiming to assist the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Israel, Libya and Morocco and their preliminary results;
- The capacity building activities to the countries i.e. national capacity building workshops;

- The progress in the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and its marine litter-related indicators;
- The progress in the implementation of the bilateral cooperation agreement with the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea (IMELS) and its related marine litter activities;
- The progress and future activities related to the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean;
- The development of the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter; and
- Future activities.

7. The progress and challenges of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) Permanent Secretariat in the management of marine litter at regional level were presented by Mrs Irina Makarenko, mainly focusing on:

- The support that the BSC has received from UN Environment/MAP and the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project;
- The draft guidelines on monitoring of marine litter in the Black Sea region;
- The under-development Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Black Sea region; and
- The way forward.

8. Le Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et Solidaire of France, represented by Ms. Sarah Sananes, and Mr. Francois Galgani (IFREMER) (through WebEx), the German Environment Authority, represented by Ms. Aleke Stoefen O Brien, the Ministry for an Ecological Transition of Spain, represented by Ms. Marta Martínez-Gil Pardo de Vera, and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey, represented by Ms. Şule Özkal, provided a brief update on the marine litter-related developments and current activities undertaken at national level and their relevance with the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter of the different European Regional Seas.

9. The European Commission, represented by Mr. Michel Sponar, (DG Environment) presented the marine litter-related EU actions, related to:

- The Circular Economy and the Plastic Strategy focusing on international actions linked to the European RS's, improving reuse and recycling, investing on circular solutions and curbing marine litter;
- The new waste legislation (2008/98/EC);
- The proposal on single-use plastics and its related four categories of actions;
- The proposal on port reception facilities;
- The evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Directive;
- The marine litter-related actions linked to urban waste water, aquaculture and shipping; and
- The progress under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) towards achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020.

10. The Deputy Director of the UN Environment Europe Office, Ms. Sylvie Motard, took the floor to present the work of UN Environment in view of implementing marine litter-related Resolutions, and the efforts undertaken by the Europe Office to address and combat marine litter. She congratulated the participants for this excellent coordination initiative that could be expanded and replicated in other regions.

11. PlasticsEurope, represented by Mrs Anne-Gaelle Collot, presented marine litter solutions offered by its organization, related to:

- Promotion of appropriate waste management, mindful product design and responsible individual behavior;
- Actions implemented as part of the Marine Litter Solutions Network;
- Support in national and international projects to prevent marine litter leakage into the marine environment focusing on education and awareness;
- Stakeholder engagement (e.g. PolyTalk, liaise with decision makers and other plastic associations);
- PlasticsEurope “Plastic 2030 Voluntary Commitment” with a focus on 6 specific commitments (improve worksites, have in place internal procedures, provide employee training and accountability, audit performance, comply with local and national regulations, encourage other partners to join the commitment); and
- Efforts to prevent resin pellet, flake and powder loss into the marine and coastal environment.

Meeting Conclusions

12. In conclusion, the Fifth European Regional Seas Coordination Meeting on the Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter agreed on the following:

- a) Depending on the mandate that the Regional Seas (RS's) have received by their Contracting Parties, different marine litter priorities are set, all aiming at enhancing marine litter management and decreasing marine litter in their regions.
- b) Common issues, opportunities and challenges were identified. These include the increased relevance of the regional dimension and stronger interest in the work of the RS's, high level of engagement and visibility on marine litter issues and the significance and lessons learnt from pilot projects. In substantive terms, issues related to monitoring and assessment, waste management, storm water, waste water treatment facilities, port reception facilities, product design, biodiversity, fisheries, education and awareness raising were explored.
- c) Areas for further cooperation with relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations should be identified and a common approach should be followed by all the European Regional Seas during that process. To this aim, a concept note will be initiated by Germany.
- d) The Monitoring Programme and the Action Plan for the Black Sea region are expected to be adopted in October 2018.
- e) OSPAR, HELCOM and UN Environment/MAP stressed the importance of the regional assessments (e.g. OSPAR Intermediate Assessment 2017; HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea 2017; UN Environment/MAP 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report) along with several challenges that the European RS's faced during their preparation that will lead to the next editions. A dedicated discussion among the corresponding Regional Seas will be initiated.
- f) The European RS's committed to a more regular and extensive use of the [Basecamp](#), established by OSPAR, to facilitate the communication and exchange of best practices and lessons learnt.

- g) The participants expressed their interest and recognized the importance of the need to further advance and improve the port reception facilities.
- h) All European RS's expressed their strong positive support to the ambitious European Commission's Plastic Strategy and have reviewed its relevance to the implementation of the Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter.
- i) The Strategy was drafted after public consultation and after receiving inspiration from several pilot actions on marine litter, implemented by the European Regional Seas. The strategy has strong links with the new waste legislation.
- j) The proposed EU Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment includes a strong Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) component which is compatible with the work implemented by the Regional Seas.
- k) The proposed EU Directive is expected to be approved by June 2019, while the evaluation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive will be initiated in 2021.
- l) The next version of the comparative table² will include two additional columns aiming to ensure and further strengthen the existing coordination and dialogue and related synergies; i.e. a column on "Synergies" and another one on the "Relevance to the Commission Proposal on Single-use Plastics".
- m) Events of relevance in the coming years (2018-2019) were discussed in order to define a possible, common approach and inputs. A calendar of events is provided as **Annex III** to the present report and the related list of meetings will be uploaded on European RS's Basecamp.
- n) Concerns about the insufficient production of communication and awareness raising activities and material were expressed due to lack of resources and suggestion was made to explore already developed/existing communication material developed at global level e.g. those produced in the context of the #CleanSeas Campaign.
- o) There was a shared appreciation of the value of these meetings which may in the future focus not only on the general implementation progress of the Regional/Action Plans but also on specific, substantive issues of relevance to all the RS's; the upcoming post-2020 Biodiversity Strategy of the CBD could be one of these issues.
- p) Country representatives and the European Commission expressed strong interest and support to the work of the European RS's.
- q) The priorities of the private sector on plastics are mainly related to the appropriate waste management, mindful product design and the responsible individual behavior.
- r) The promotion of the evidence-based approach based on life-cycle thinking and product stewardship to avoid shortcuts in the public debate leading to product bans and de-selection of plastics is also a priority.
- s) UN Environment/GPA stressed the importance of the marine litter-related work implemented by the Regional Seas and their related Regional/Action Plans and provided recommendations regarding the improvement of the current governance strategies.
- t) Comments will be provided by the meeting participants, by the 31st of July 2018, on the concept note provided by UN Environment/MAP regarding the

² Provided as Annex I to the present report.

organization of a Regional Workshop on Synergies with G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.

- u) The next physical meeting will be organized in Spring 2019. It will be tentatively hosted by the BSC in Istanbul. Other options to be explored are the 2018 ICG-ML meeting in Iceland or the G7 Workshop on Marine Litter.

Annex I: State of implementation of Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter – June 2018

| | Existing Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter – State of implementation and Developments | | | Existing products & outcomes incl. (background) studies, results from workshops, industry dialogues, Best Practice Guidance/Guidelines etc. |
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| | OSPAR | UN Environment/MAP | HELCOM | AND Expected results incl. timelines from already commissioned projects which are ongoing or starting soon |
| <p>Implementation of MARPOL Annex V/ waste management in ports</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 30: fee systems, good practices Following the publication of the EU Commission Proposal for the revision of the PRF Directive OSPAR held a meeting of transport and environment colleagues to discuss overlap between the OSPAR RAP and proposal to feed into the discussions at EU Council Shipping Working Group. OSPAR is currently considering a similar engagement with the EU Parliament. Action 34: improve implementation of ISO standard 21070:2013 in relation to port reception facilities. Guidelines to facilitate and reward advanced onboard waste management finalized in time for EIHA 2017, not adopted yet, but already of good use as background information. The International Green Deal will not be developed further. Actions 32, 33 and 38: inspections, fees and sanctions. Background/guidelines document. Background document available and presented to ICG-ML (2) 2107. A joint workshop with the network of North Sea Prosecutors (NSN) will be held late 2018 or early 2019. | <p>Focus on national implementation through Pilot projects is planned in the framework of the EU-funded “Marine Litter MED” project in selected major ports and marinas in the Mediterranean related to the better management of litter from sea-based sources. Up to ten pilots will be implemented in relation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of reception facilities in ports and delivery of ship-generated wastes in one marina per target country, as selected in collaboration with the National Authorities. Determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system in one major port per target country, as selected in collaboration with national authorities. <p>The following specific tasks/activities are planned till April 2019, which are hereunder presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a study based on a literature review on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as other European Regional Seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities considering information available on the IMO GISIS and available documentation; Carry out a field visit by Port Authorities representatives (one per target country) in one reference port (e.g. Algeciras or Antwerp); Develop draft guidance document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system; Develop draft operational Guidelines on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes; Organise national meetings to raise awareness on the need to better manage sea- | <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>Germany: As part of the German Round Table on Marine Litter, Recommendations on the Revision of the Port Reception Facility Directive (2000/59/EC) was elaborated that will feed into the on-going discussion of the European Sustainable Shipping Forum of the European Commission.</p> <p>Finland: A national survey on the sources of both macro- and microlitter (plastics) is carried out, the survey report is expected in autumn 2018. As a part of this study a detailed analysis on the loopholes and obstacles for handling shipping related waste and port reception of waste has been carried out (interviews and on-site observations). Results of this report will feed on the action RS3 and RS4.</p> | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input to the revision of the EU PRF Directive Final draft background document on inspections, fees and sanctions (written for OSPAR AND HELCOM) <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial results on the pilots will be available during the second half of 2018. Draft elements for the development of guidelines will be presented in October 2018 (Izmir, Turkey, tbc) during a regional meeting on marine litter best practices. Further information on the pilots can be found in the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project document: http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/id/54013/ProjectDoc_MarineLitterMED.pdf <p>HELCOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU has finalised a study on microplastics in cosmetics, being its first part relevant for this action: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf German Round Table on Marine Litter: Recommendation for the revision of the PRF-Directive (will be translated to English and submitted to EU COM, see also HELCOM): https://muell-im-meer.de/userfiles/file/Empfehlung%20AG%20SBE%20Hafenaufrueckstellungen.pdf <p><i>Note: Both products address concern all RSCs</i></p> |

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| | | <p>based litter in ports and to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of MARPOL and from their legislation applicable in the field;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise regional/sub-regional workshop to share best practices on No-Special-Fee systems. <p>Additional pilots are also planned in the Adriatic countries during the 2018-2018 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) in the framework of the bilateral cooperation agreement between UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea (IMELS)</p> | | |
| <p>Waste prevention and management (I)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions 39 and 40: identification of circumstances on where litter “escapes” into the marine environment and investigating how to close loops. A questionnaire was circulated to Contracting Parties on 20 April 2018 to gain a comprehensive overview of existing waste management practices and associated marine litter prevention strategies. The results will be shared with the International Waste Working Group (IWWG). • Action 51: explore with industry design developments to reduce negative impacts of products (eco-design). No further developments. • Action 49: Investigate prevalence and impact of EPS and engage with industry to make proposals. Portugal and Ireland intend to set up industry cooperation and envisage coming up with a catalogue of products and their alternatives. The OceanWise project, to take this action forward, has been funded through the EU Interreg Atlantic Arc programme. The kick-off was on the 23rd January 2018 and the end-date is December 2020. The project will propose and test plausible options (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, alternative materials) to achieve better environmental outcomes within different sectors (fishing industry, food distribution, packaging) | <p>Art.9.3.a</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The “25 Innovative and Inspiring Solutions to Combat Plastic Marine Litter in the Mediterranean Region” was published by the UN Environment/MAP and SCP/RAC in 2017.</p> <p>The Meeting “Enhancing the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean”, Tirana, Albania, 19-21 July 2016 promoted the best marine litter practices. All European regional seas were invited.</p> <p>A regional meeting is planned in October 2018 to share best practices including on waste management and marine litter.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work under Germany Round Table on Marine Litter relating to address the issue of packaging. - Germany’s Round Table “Eco-Design for Plastic Packaging” which aims to develop a Guideline on the eco-design of packaging among the entire supply chain. First results will be expected in 2018. - Finland: Launch of a national challenge contest for collecting best ideas reducing marine litter as part of a national marine litter project supporting POM. The challenge is open for all citizens, but will also be specially directed towards stakeholders in packaging industry and product design. Link to the contest: http://www.meriroskahaaste.fi/en-US. There are now 10 competitors representing very different stakeholders (schoolkids, a giant pulp mill etc.). - Sweden: the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has started a network called Textile Dialogue to work on questions concerning micro plastics in the textile organisations. <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</p> | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 39 and 40: Final background document with concrete measures in place for EIHA 2020 • Background document and measures on the basis of OceanWise in 2020 <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report of the Meeting “Enhancing the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean” can be accessed under the following link: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/14422/16wg425_inf7_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y • The report “25 Innovative and Inspiring Solutions to Combat Plastic Marine Litter in the Mediterranean Region” can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.cprac.org/ca/arxiu-de-noticies/generiques/25-innovative-solutions-to-combat-plastic-marine-litter-a-unique-tool-f <p>HELCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of EU TG ML on Harm caused by Marine Litter: http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC104308/lbna28317enn.pdf • HELCOM-Interreg-Workshop on Marine Litter and Ecodesign (15 June 2018). (https://www.ecodesigncircle.eu/resources-for-you/marine-litter-and-ecodesign) • Denmark has in January 2018 initiated a study with the objective to gather knowledge on the prevalence and sources of EPS in the Baltic Sea, and to point out possible measures to reduce the environmental burden of EPS in the Baltic Sea. The study is involving all HELCOM parties and the results of the study will act as the knowledge and decision-making basis for the further work. <p>The first phase of the project focuses on manufacture, use and trade and on fate and hazards of EPS in the marine environment. Next phase will be focusing on occurrence of EPS in the Baltic Sea, estimates on losses and discharges and on potential measures. The project will run until March 2019. Contact has been established with OSPAR project Ocean Wise</p> |

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| | | | <p>changes in product design and applying best practices when handling EPS by 2019.</p> <p>-Finland: On- going development for using wood-based materials to replace EPS. Has been done already now to replace EPS with cardboard in boxes used in storing and transporting fish. Also waterproof cardboard has been developed to replace EPS e.g. in coffee cups and related.</p> | <p>on the similar OSPAR action, which will run until December 2020.</p> <p><i>Note: Product concerns all RSCs</i></p> |
| <p>Waste prevention and management (II): single-use items including plastic bags</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 43: Assess relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the use of single-use and other items; which impact the marine environment, including the illustration of the associated costs and environmental impacts. Ireland commissioned consultants (environmental economists) to undertake a study to identify and assess relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the use of single-use and other items. The final report was presented to EIHA 18 and it was decided to develop a strategic approach to reduce the use of single use items. A draft recommendation and background document will be developed for EIHA 2019. This aims to be complementary to the Commission proposal on single use items. 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. France is in lead and is currently developing a background document for plastic carrier bags and this will be submitted to ICG-ML (2) 2018. | <p>The 2018-2019 Programme of Work of the UN Environment/MAP includes important activities to assess and promote the use of relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the single-use of plastic bags.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to support special pilot projects related to plastic bags:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal commitment of 4 national governments (Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt); Review of the existing regulatory framework regarding single-use plastic bags, and other non-governmental initiatives, for the countries participating into the project; A "reference document" drafted on the situation of single-use plastic bags in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and options for reduction, including an implementation roadmap. This document will serve as a basis to develop regional guidelines and/or training materials; Two national events (Tunisia and Egypt) identified to work on single-use plastic bags reduction from the policy perspective; Two pilot projects in Morocco designed to promote alternatives to single-use plastic bags and pilot a "return and refund" scheme for beverage containers. <p>Additional pilots are also planned in the Adriatic Mediterranean sub-region during the 2018-2018 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) in the framework of the bilateral cooperation agreement between UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea (IMELS). 3 pilots under implementation in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro.</p> <p>A new project is on the pipeline in Egypt with support from France and UN Environment/GPA.</p> | <p>RL10</p> <p>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.</p> <p>-Finland: Framework agreement: As means to reduce littering the focus of the measures should include the use of plastic containers and bags. Green Deal agreement of the Ministry of the Environment and Federation of Finnish Commerce on the measures to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags was signed in 2016. The agreement implements the measures the Member States are required to take to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags under the EU Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC), as amended by Directive (EU) 2015/720. The purpose of the agreement is to agree on voluntary measures of the retail sector to ensure that the minimum objectives concerning the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags in the Packaging Waste Directive are reached in Finland. As a rule all companies in the retail sector with one or several branches in Finland may join the plastic bag agreement for the trade sector via the Society's Commitment. The Ministry of the Environment undertakes to evaluate after three years from the date when the agreement was concluded (31 October 2016) the effectiveness of the agreed measures in terms of reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags and preventing littering. Should the evaluation show that the measures taken have not been effective, the Ministry of the Environment will consider other potential means to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags. Finland informed that the consumption of plastic bags in Finland decreased by up to 60% (depending on the commercial chain) by</p> | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 43: Draft recommendations on a strategic approach to reduce single-use items will be developed for EIHA 2019 Final background document for plastics carrier bags submitted to ICG-ML (2) 201b. <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary results on the pilots are already available for Morocco and a national meeting was organized on May 2018 in Rabat to present them (https://www.switchmed.eu/en/news/news-1/morocco-is-committed-in-tackling-marine-litter). Technical Assistance is currently ongoing in Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon; Further information on the pilots can be found in the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project document: http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/id/54013/ProjectDoc_MarineLitterMED.pdf <p>HELCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finland: Framework agreement to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags (Plastic Carrier Bag Agreement). The programme of measures of the Finnish Marine Strategy 2016–2021 adopted by the Government proposes that, with the aim to reduce the littering of the Baltic Sea, proposals for measures are to be prepared to reduce the amount of plastic litter, in particular. More information can be found here: http://www.ym.fi/en-us/The_environment/Waste/Green_Deal_agreements Denmark: the Danish EPA has published a new report that provides a lifecycle assessment (LCA) of production, use and disposal of shopping bags available in Danish supermarkets in autumn 2017. 16 different environmental parameters have been compared, and the results are shown by how many times a given type of carrier bag should be used to be as environmentally good as a regular plastic carrier bag. Access to the report: https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf |

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| | | <p>The objective will be to produce affordable and convenient alternatives to single-use plastic bags while providing economic impact to disadvantaged groups, as well as promoting their daily, long-term use.</p> | <p>the end of 2017, i.e. during the first year of the Plastic Carrier Bag Agreement.</p> | |
| <p>Waste prevention and management (III): primary microplastics</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 46: Evaluate all products and processes that include primary microplastics and act, if appropriate, to reduce their impact on the marine environment. A conference has taken place in 2015 organized by OSPAR/the NL where relevant sources for MP were involved (cosmetic sector, tyre and paint industry, plastic producer and converters etc.). OSPAR 2017 agreed to publish an assessment of land-based sources of microplastics as a basis for further measures. At OSPAR 2016 it was agreed to address pellet loss as the next source (while already have dealt with microplastics in cosmetics). A draft background document will be agreed by EIHA HODs through written procedure over the summer, an industry dialogue will be held in the autumn and a draft measure on reducing pellets loss will be presented to EIHA 2019. 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. Following an industry dialogue Cosmetic Europe have undertaken a voluntary phase out of wash off products, OSPAR has asked the EU to take a 100% ban and this has been followed up in the plastics strategy. This action is now complete. Action 52: Promote initiatives and exchange of best practice aiming at zero pellet loss along the whole plastics manufacturing chain from production to transport. See action 46. | <p>Collaboration across RSs, with a particular focus on microplastics should be promoted.</p> <p>A regional workshop should be planned in 2018 – 2019.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>- Finland: A national survey on the sources of both macro- and microlitter (plastics) is carried out, the survey report is expected by autumn 2018. As a part of this study a report of the amount of microplastics included in the Personal Care products on Finnish markets and entering municipal waste waters was done in 2017. It is aimed to launch a case/pilot study on microplastics in storm waters in years 2018-2019, as a part of a national research project (MIF).</p> <p>- Russia: Project Microplastics Research in the Baltic marine Environment (MARBLE): collection of samples of microplastic from the waters of the Baltic Sea and found that near the water surface and bottom, there are a lot of microfibers. Studies were carried out to measure the rate descent of microplastic to the bottom at the laboratory.</p> <p>- Sweden: the Swedish government has introduced a ban on microplastics in hygiene articles. The Swedish agency of marine and water management financed a study on the spread of microplastics from boat brush washers and held a seminar that discusses various measurement methods for micro particles.</p> | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 46/47: Results of OSPAR/the NL Conference “Closing the plastics value chain: measures for reducing microplastic emissions”: https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/marine-litter/marine-litter-conference “Assessment document of land-based inputs of microplastics in the marine environment” adopted by OSPAR 2017, and is published on the OSPAR website, https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=38018 Action 47: Industry Dialogue with cosmetics industry resulted in voluntary phase out of microbeads in wash off products by 2020. OSPAR was written to the EU asking for an EU wide ban. Action 52: Background document to be agreed by written procedure and draft recommendation to be submitted to EIHA 2019. <p>HELCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential contribution from Blastic project: https://www.blastic.eu/ EU: The EU has finalised a study on microplastics in cosmetics: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf and is considering follow-up activities on microplastics (e-mail communication after PRESSURE 4-2016). <i>Note: Product concerns all RSCs</i> Sweden: The SE EPA has a commission to identify significant sources to microplastics in Sweden and to act to reduce the origination and release of microplastics from these sources to the marine environment. The commission shall be reported on or before the 15 June 2017. As part of this commission a national investigation on sources to microplastics has been carried out and reported, (http://www.naturvardsverket.se/upload/miljoarbete-i-samhallet/miljoarbete-i-sverige/regeringsuppdrag/2016/mikroplaster/swedish-sources-and-pathways-for-microplastics-to-marine%20environment-ivl-c183.pdf) & The SE Chemicals Agency have had an assignment from the Government to propose national measures for restricting the occurrence of microplastics in cosmetic products, and they presented it in 2016 (https://www.kemi.se/nyheter-fran-kemikalieinspektionen/2016/kemikalieinspektionen-foreslar-begransningar-for-plastkorn-i-kosmetika/). Norway: A report on measures to reduce microplastics (2016) (http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/no/Publikasjoner/2016/April-2016/Primary-microplastic-pollution-Measures-and-reduction-potentials-in-Norway/) Finland: Bachelor’s Thesis on microplastics and harmful substances in urban runoffs and landfill leachates - Possible Emission Sources to Marine Environment (2016) |

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| | | | | <p>(https://www.theseus.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/114539/Kilponen_Juho.pdf?sequence=1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denmark: Two national investigations on microplastics: "Microplastics, Occurrence, effects and sources of releases to the environment in Denmark" (Environmental project No. 1793, 2015) (https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2015/10/978-87-93352-80-3.pdf) and "Microplastic in Danish wastewater. Sources, occurrences and fate (Environmental Project No. 1906. Marts 2017) (https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2017/03/978-87-93529-44-1.pdf). CCB: Technical report of microplastic pollution originating from textiles and paints/coatings, addressing both environmental implications and available solutions (http://www.ccb.se/documents/Postkod2017/CCB_Technical_Report_MP_textiles_paints.pdf). |
| <p>Waste prevention and management (IV): other key waste items</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Progress report presented to ICG-ML (2) 2017 by France. Questionnaire on waste characterization from aquaculture and fisheries circulated to gain a better knowledge on the potential environmental impacts. Project PECHPROPPE started for recycling of fishing gear, will provide report for this action. Action 36: Through a multinational project, together with the fishing industry and competent authorities to develop and promote best practise in relation to marine litter. All relevant aspects (including e.g. dolly rope, waste management on board, waste management at harbours and operational losses/net cuttings) should be included. Report presented by the task leads SE, UK and the NL to ICG-ML (1) 2017 and stakeholder workshop carried out in conjunction with the Europort Conference in Nov 2017 to discuss BP and assess together with stakeholder what additional actions are necessary. OSPAR is looking at combining the fisheries actions possibly through an EU funded project involving other regional seas. Action 48: evaluate potential harm caused to the marine environment by cigarette filters, balloons, cotton buds, bio-film support media. Spain, France and Portugal and the UK will start this action while evaluating the potential harm caused by cigarette butts and cotton buds as part of EU funded project CleanAtlantic. | | | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 35: Progress report for ICG-ML (2) 2017 Action 36: Report on Best Practice presented at ICG-ML (1) 2017, report of the results of the stakeholder workshop was available in Dec 2017 Action 48: Interreg-project CleanAtlantic has started. <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Guidelines on Marine Litter Management (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.425/Inf.4): https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/14419/16wg425_inf4_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y Updated List of Guidelines on Marine Litter Management (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.446/3): https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22083/17wg446_3_engonly.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y |

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| <p>Riverine inputs / Sewage and storm water related waste (including microparticles)</p> | <p>Action 41: Exchange experience on best practice to prevent litter entering into water systems and highlight these to River or River basin Commissions. Work session with River Commissions has taken place from June 27-28, 2017 in Bonn, Germany. A questionnaire was circulated beforehand and resulted in the report "Inventory of knowledge and actions concerning riverine litter relevant for the OSPAR area". The work session focussed on the issues that are being raised in this report, which includes the lessons learned by OSPAR when setting up beach litter monitoring and the needed cooperation between the two communities.</p> <p>In addition implementation of this action is supported by the results of the European Conference on Plastics in Freshwater Environments organized by Germany and the report of the EU TG on Marine Litter on River Litter Monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. A draft BAT document has been developed for sewerage systems but more work is required on wastewater and for sewage sludge. | <p>The implementation of the "Adopt-a-beach" pilots in the Southern Mediterranean countries (EU-funded Marine Litter MED project) and in the Adriatic (Cooperation Agreement with IMELS), include a strong component for assessing the riverine inputs also considering the MSFD JRC/TGML riverine litter monitoring options and recommendations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Related measures are included in the updated NAPs prepared and approved in early 2016 by most of CPs.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>- Finland: Potential contribution from a Finnish research project (MIF) on sampling methodology (water flow volume based) and preliminary data on microlitter in stormwaters, but not before end 2018. Ongoing technological development is known to take place (FI) for reducing microlitter from stormwaters. The first trials for collecting flow-based data on microlitter in stormwaters will be carried out during summer 2018 as a part of a Finnish research project MIF.</p> <p>- Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1)</p> <p>- Potential contribution from the FP7 'Baltic Flows' and 'IWater'</p> <p>- Sweden: The Swedish government has recently started a special investigation into the environmental consequences of plastics, including microplastics which end up in lake and marine environments. SwAM senior analyst and marine litter expert, Johanna Eriksson, has been appointed as secretary to the investigation, which will report to the Environment- and Energy Ministry by the 1st October 2018.</p> | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 41: Report "Inventory of knowledge and actions concerning riverine litter relevant for the OSPAR area" & results from the work session: https://www.google.de/search?ei=AUJZwu01J4G00gWwvqgYCA&q=Inventory+of+knowledge+and+actions+concerning+riverine+litter+relevant+for+the+OSPAR+area&og=Inventory+of+knowledge+and+actions+concerning+riverine+litter+relevant+for+the+OSPAR+area&gs_l=psy-ab.3...51776.51776.0.51974.1.1.0.0.0.148.148.0j1.1.0...1c.64.psy-ab.0.0.0...0.o0LHrFZ867w Issue Paper to European Conference on Plastics in Freshwater Environments: https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/plastics-conference-2016 <i>Note: report concern all three RSs</i> EU TG ML report: River Litter Monitoring – Options and Recommendations: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/riverine-litter-monitoring-options-and-recommendations <i>Note: report concern all three RSs</i> Action 42: Progress presented to ICG-ML (1) 2017 <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further information on the pilots can be found in the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project document: http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/id/54013/ProjectDoc_MarineLitterMED.pdf <p>HELCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCB: "Guidance on concrete ways to reduce microplastic inputs from municipal stormwater and waste water discharges", including (1) stormwater management implications in climate change conditions and (2) draft methodology for microplastic detection (http://www.ccb.se/documents/Postkod2017/CCB%20-%20Guidance%20on%20concrete%20ways%20to%20reduce%20microplastics%20in%20stormwater%20and%20sewage.pdf). Finland: the removal of microlitter from wastewater during different treatment steps of mechanical, chemical and biological treatment (activated sludge) and biologically active filter (BAF) in a large (population equivalent 800000) advanced WWTP has been examined. The effectiveness of different tertiary treatments in the purification process has also been evaluated. More information from the PhD work of J. Talvitie "Wastewater treatment plants as pathways of microlitter to the aquatic environment" (https://aaltodoc.aalto.fi/bitstream/handle/123456789/30720/isbn9789526079806.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y). |
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| <p>Fishing for litter activities (passive FFL)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 53: Strengthen the existing OSPAR Recommendation 2010/19 on the reduction of marine litter through implementation of fishing for litter initiatives (OSPAR2016). OSPAR Secretariat to improve FFL presence on OSPAR website with links to RACs. Revised OSPAR Guidelines for FFL adopted at EIHA 2017. Action 74 (CPs). Encouraging all fishing vessels to be involved in Fishing for Litter schemes, where they are available. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing for Litter Guidelines endorsed at the COP19 in February 2016. Pilot projects implemented in the Southern Mediterranean countries in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project. National capacity building workshops have been organized in Morocco (Rabat, 18-21 Feb. 2018), Egypt (Alexandria, 26 Feb. – 1 Mar. 2018) and Tunisia (Tunis, 12-15 Mar. 2018) to facilitate and support the implementation of the “Fishing-for-Litter” pilots in Morocco, Egypt and Libya. Training material to guide the implementation of the “Fishing-for-Litter” pilots have been developed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised OSPAR Guidelines for FFL activities: https://www.ospar.org/convention/agreements <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing-for-Litter Guidelines: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/6072/16ig22_28_22_10_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y Further information on the pilots can be found in the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project document: http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/id/54013/ProjectDoc_MarineLitterMED.pdf <p>HELCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MARELITT Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6. |
| <p>Accumulations areas/hotspots of ML (including ghost nets)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 55: Develop subregional or regional maps of hotspots of floating: INTERREG Project CleanAtlantic has started and will cover this action. Action 56: Identify hotspot areas of ALDFG through mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds. Progress report by Norway to EIHA 2016 on work carried out on snagging sites and measures to retrieve fishing gear in the Norwegian EEZ. Secretariat working together with Norway to gather national information of CPs related to their EEZ. Action 57: risk assessment for identifying where accumulations suppose a threat and should be removed. Germany providing info from MARELITT (e.g. on EIA with regard to removal of ghost nets). OSPAR is looking at combining the fisheries actions possibly through an EU funded project involving other regional seas. | <p>UN Environment/MAP published in 2016 a Regional Survey on Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and Ghost Nets in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>The development of a risk assessment tool is planned in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project aiming to identify where in the Mediterranean marine litter is accumulating, particularly “ghost nets”, and should be removed. Work is experiencing some delays and it is still in its preparatory phase. Opportunity to test in the Mediterranean an already developed tool from the COBSEA region (East Asian Seas) is also explored in consultation with UN Environment Headquarters.</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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Initiate removal of ghost nets and their safe management on land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Denmark: has conducted a small pilot project based on knowledge gathering for the extent of ghost nets in Danish waters, which can contribute to this action. - Sweden: the Swedish Agency of Marine and Water Management will have a ghost net reporting tool for recreational fishers and the public, GhostGuard. | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 56: Progress report by Norway on a questionnaire, circulated through NEAFC, on work carried out on snagging sites and measures to retrieve fishing gear, including in the Norwegian EEZ, presented to ICG-ML. INTERREG Project Clean Atlantic will contribute to this action <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2016 ALDFG report can be accessed under the following link: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/6268/16wg424_inf7_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y <p>HELCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweden: Project by municipality, Trelleborgs kommun Marelitt Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6. Danish pilot report on knowledge gathering for the extent of ghost nets in Danish waters: http://www.aqua.dtu.dk/english/-/media/Institutter/Aqua/Publikationer/Forskningsrapporter_301_351/323-2017_Ghost-nets-A-pilot-project-on-derelict-fishing-gear.ashx |
| <p>Clean-up campaigns (national, international)</p> | <p>Expected at the national level (Action 80: Encourage participation in International, EU and National Litter Cleanup Campaigns</p> | <p>Art. 10.b. Explore and implement to the extent possible the implementation of the National Marine Litter Clean-up Campaigns on a regular basis.</p> <p>Expected to be implemented at the national level as part of PoM/updated NAPs.</p> <p>A regional clean-up campaign under common methodological standards was highlighted as a priority of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter.</p> | | <p>OSPAR/HELCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quite some organizations involved in ICC-day as well as OSPAR and HELCOM (e.g. Marine Conservation Society, WWF) German Round Table on Marine Litter works on developing standardized procedures to be applied by different NGOs/organizations when carrying out clean-ups in order to make them ecologically sound and data comparable: www.muell-im-meer.de |

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| <p>Public awareness and education activities / citizen science and data</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 58: Develop marine litter assessment sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programmes, including those for professional seafarers and fishermen. A background document on Sustainable Fishing Education at fishing academies in OSPAR countries was adopted by EIHA 2018 and a draft recommendation will be presented to EIHA 2018 | <p>Art.16</p> <p>- Support will be provided to the Contracting Parties, as planned in the 2018-2019, in further establishing/extending educational activities and promote educational programmes focusing on marine and coastal issues, with the aim to promote education on sustainable</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 58: Information package for education of fishermen developed by Pro Seas: http://www.prosea.info/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Sustainable-Fishing-Training-Series_ProSea-Brochure.pdf Background document published by OSPAR 2018 and draft recommendation being developed <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness material on AaB and FfL is expected to be ready by the second half of 2018. <p>HELCOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCB: online training course on marine litter and microplastic pollution has been launched in September 2017 and will last until 15 November (https://ekoagora.pl/plastic-free-baltic/). CCB contributed to the Out-to-Sea Travelling Exhibition in the Technical Museum (Tekniska Museet) of Stockholm (http://atkisson.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/OUT-TO-SEA-Stockholm-Ebook-and-Final-Report-low-res.pdf). |
| <p>Information on RSC and CPs activities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 59: DB on good practice examples of ML measures and initiatives. Database is currently going live again for the German Roundtable on Marine Litter. <p>2017: OSPAR Intermediate Assessment (IA 2017) including a chapter on marine litter assessing three common indicators: beach litter, seafloor litter and litter in fulmar stomachs</p> | <p>A Mediterranean node on marine litter is under development by the UN Environment/MAP with the support of the UN Environment/GPA and its Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). The Terms of References of the Mediterranean Node have been presented to the second meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (9-10 Nov. 2017).</p> <p>The architecture of the Mediterranean Node has been agreed and the Secretariat is currently discussing with UN Environment Headquarters to integrate the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter into the Global Node on Marine Litter (http://marinelitternetwork.com/)</p> <p>2017: Mediterranean Quality Status Report (QSR) includes two chapters on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean related to the assessment of the IMAP Common Indicators 22 and 23 i.e. beach, floating, seafloor marine litter including microplastics.</p> | <p>RE2: HELCOM website to be updated periodically based on the input from CPs on ML management activities. Further specification: 2015 initial information uploaded</p> | <p>OSPAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 59: Database on ML measures and initiatives: https://marine-litter-conference-berlin.info/tbdb.php Intermediate Assessment 2017: https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/intermediate-assessment-2017/pressures-human-activities/marine-litter/ <p>UN Environment/MAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The web-version of the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report can be accessed through the following link: https://www.medqsr.org/. The Marine Litter-related chapters have been presented, reviewed and discussed during the CORMON meeting on marine litter monitoring (Madrid, Feb. 2017), the MEDPOL Focal Point meeting (Rome, May 2017), the 6th EcAP Coordination Group meeting (Athens, Sept. 2017), and the MAP Focal Point meeting (Athens, Sept. 2017). The Terms of Reference and elements of the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter have been presented during the second meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 No. 2017) and are included in the UN Environment/MAP document: UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.446/4 Global Node on Marine Litter: http://marinelitternetwork.com/ |

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| <p>Collaboration with stakeholders and developing a long term relationship with the different regional actors</p> | <p>Stakeholder are already part of the implementation process, e.g. CosmeticsEurope with regard to MP in cosmetics, PlasticsEurope for prevention of pellet losses, fishing industry for various actions... Tasks, of currently employed RAP ML coordinator include enhancing involvement of stakeholders/relevant regional actors and supporting regional coordination. Stakeholder dialogue will be held on pre-production plastic pellets in the Autumn.</p> | <p>Establishment of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean at the invitation of the UN Environment/MAP in Sept. 2016. This represents an open-ended group of more than 20 international and regional actors with a clear mandate on marine litter management. The second meeting of the platform was held in Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 Nov. 2017, during which the members of the platform agreed on common/joint 2018 workplan. The third meeting is planned in Oct. 2018 (Turkey, Izmir, tbc).</p> <p>Bilateral Cooperation with the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS) on marine litter is ongoing, specifically related to the development of the Monitoring Programme and the Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Black Sea region.</p> <p>UN Environment/MAP is supporting the Plastic Buster Project, labelled by the UfM and led by University of Sienna. MAP/MEDPOL are participating in the advisory board of several EU-funded projects e.g. INDICIT, CLAIM, MELTEMI, etc.</p> <p>The PoW of MAP 2018-2019 has a considerable number of activities related to marine litter addressing monitoring, share of best practices, awareness and capacity building.</p> <p>Marine Litter is a key component of the bilateral agreement with the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea (IMELS). This will foster the work on marine litter in the Adriatic region. The support from IMELS may reach up to 710 000 EUR to support the implementation of a number of activities.</p> <p>MAP in collaboration with Italy was instrumental in bringing to the attention of G7 the role and contribution of the work on marine litter implemented through the Regional Seas Programmes and the needed interaction to strengthen synergies and to maximize results. UN Environment/MAP was involved in the preparation of a G7 workshop in Rome, April 2017 and aims at preparing a follow-up workshop during the French presidency of the G7 in 2019.</p> | | <p>UN Environment/Map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/14413/16wg425_2_corr1_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y and https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/14415/16wg425_4_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y A coordination meeting between the UN Environment/MAP and the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS) was organized in July 2017 in Athens, Greece where the Action Plan and the Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter were reviewed and a joint work plan was agreed. The Background Document for the G7 workshop on marine litter can be accessed under the following link: http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/Background_Document_ML_FINAL.pdf (Note: Product concerns all RSCs); The 2018-2019 PoW as approved during the upcoming 20th meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 Dec. 2017): https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21883/17ig23_17_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y |
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Annex II: List of Participants

| | Organization | Title | Name | SURNAME | Position/Affiliation | Country | Email |
|---|---|-------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|---------|--|
| 1 | OSPAR Secretariat | Mr | John | Mouat | Deputy Secretary | | john.mouat@ospar.org |
| 2 | HELCOM Secretariat | Mrs | Marta | Ruiz | Associate Professional Secretary | | marta.ruiz@helcom.fi |
| 3 | Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat | Mrs | Iryna | Makarenko | Officer, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (PMA) | | iryna.makarenko79@gmail.com |
| 4 | UN Environment, Europe Office | Mrs | Sylvie | Motard | Deputy Director | | sylvie.motard@un.org |
| 5 | European Commission, DG Environment | Ms. | Michel | Sponar | Deputy Head of Unit | Belgium | michel.sponar@ec.europa.eu |
| 6 | German Environment Authority | Mrs | Aleke | Stoefen O Brien | Fachgebiet II 2.3 Unit II 2.3 Protection of the Marine Environment | Germany | aleke.stoefenOBrien@uba.de |
| 7 | Ministry for an Ecological Transition | Mrs | Marta | Martínez-Gil Pardo de Vera | Head of Unit, General Subdirectorate for the Protection of the Sea Directorate for Coast and Sea Sustainability | Spain | mmgil@mapama.es |
| 8 | Ministry of Environment and Urbanization | Mrs | Şule | Özkal | Deputy Expert, Marine and Coastal Management Department | Turkey | sule.ozkal@csb.gov.tr |
| 9 | PlasticsEurope | Mrs | Anne- Gaelle | Collot | Senior Manager, Environmental Affairs | Belgium | anne-gaelle.COLLOT@plasticseurope.org |

Participation through WebEx:

| | Organization | Title | Name | SURNAME | Position/Affiliation | Country | Email |
|---|--|-------|----------|---------|---|---------|--|
| 1 | Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et Solidaire | Mrs | Sarah | Sananes | Chargée de mission Politique des écosystèmes marins | France | sarah.sananes@developpement-durable.gouv.fr |
| 2 | IFREMER | Mr | Francois | Galgani | | France | francois.galgani@ifremer.fr |
| 4 | UN Environment/ Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) | Mrs | Heidi | Savelli | Programme Officer | | heidi.savelli@un.org |

UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention Secretariat:

| | Organization | Title | Name | SURNAME | Position/Affiliation | Country | Email |
|---|---------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----------------------|---------|--|
| 1 | UN Environment/ MAP | Mr | Gaetano | Leone | Coordinator | | gaetano.leone@un.org |
| 2 | UN Environment/ MAP | Mrs | Tatjana | Hema | Deputy Coordinator | | tatjana.hema@un.org |
| 3 | UN Environment/ MAP | Mr | Christos | Ioakeimidis | Marine Litter Expert | | christos.ioakeimidis@un.org |

Annex III: Calendar of Events

| 2018 | |
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| January | |
| February | |
| March | |
| April | |
| May | |
| June | |
| July | |
| August | |
| September | <p>PRF Event at the European Parliament, September 2018, Brussels, Belgium</p> <p>Stakeholder Dialogue on Pre-Production Plastic Pellets, September 2018</p> <p>MARITIME 18-2018, 25-27 September 2018, Hamburg, Germany</p> <p>24th ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting, 25-27 September 2018, Vilnius, Lithuania</p> <p>Global Meeting of the RS's, 23-25 September 2018, Split, Croatia</p> <p>GESAMP meeting (Working group 40, http://www.gesamp.org/work/groups/40): Final meeting (group members only) to finalize the GESAMP report on monitoring protocols for marine Litter. Expected September/October 2018, at IMO headquarters, London.</p> |
| October | <p>PRESSURE 9-2018, 8-12 October 2018, Riga, Latvia. 3rd Workshop on the Implementation of the RAP on ML.</p> <p>34th BSC Regular Meeting, 24-25 October 2018, Istanbul, Turkey</p> <p>Marine Litter Best Practices, 9-10 October 2018, Izmir, Turkey</p> <p>3rd Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine litter in the Mediterranean, 11-12 October 2018, Izmir, Turkey</p> <p>Fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: Bali, Indonesia, 31 October - 1 November 2018</p> |
| November | <p>ICG-ML, 6-8 November 2018, Edinburgh, Scotland</p> <p>2nd Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Expert Group on Marine Litter: Next Meeting, End of November 2018 (tentatively)</p> <p>Micro 2018 (https://micro2018.sciencesconf.org): International meeting on microplastics , Lanzarote 19-23th of November, including back to back meetings/workshops (JPI oceans/microplastics final meeting for 4 projects, TGML meeting on microplastics, etc.)</p> |
| December | GFCM Fish Forum, 10-14 December 2018, Rome, Italy |

| 2019 | |
|-----------|---|
| January | |
| February | |
| March | CORMON Meeting on Marine Litter Monitoring, March 2019; |
| April | EIHA Committee, 8-12 April 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark Marine Litter Best Practices: Seville, Spain, 9-11 April 2019 |
| May | |
| June | |
| July | |
| August | |
| September | |
| October | |
| November | |
| December | |

Tentative Events:

- Workshop on Fines, Sanctions and Inspections Early 2019