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## Background

This document contains an update of Swedish activities in connection to action RL2, RL4, RL5 and RL7 in the RAP ML:

- RL1 - Prepare and agree on HELCOM guidelines on marine litter references to be included in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans, i.a. an element highlighting the impacts of marine litter.
- RL2 - Provide HELCOM guidelines on best practice routines with regard to cleaning and collection systems to prevent litter from land entering the aquatic environment.
- RL4 - Improvement of storm water management in order to prevent litter, including microliter, to enter the marine environment from heavy weather events.
- 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.
- RL6 - Establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics. Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary microplastics, such as fibres from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures.
- RL7- Investigate and promote best available techniques as well as research and develop additional techniques in wastewater treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment.

## Action requested

The Workshop is invited to take note of the information and make use of it when discussing relevant items in the Workshop.

## Update on Swedish activities in connection to the RAP ML

### Current issues in areas related to RL1

#### Waste, waste prevention

The Swedish EPA is developing a revised National Waste Plan and a Waste Prevention Program for the years 2018-2023 <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbete-i-samhallet/Miljoarbete-i-Sverige/Regeringsuppdrag/Reviderad-nationell-avfallsplan/>

The Waste Council (“Avfallsrådet”) is the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's expert support for waste issues and issues related to sustainable management of materials in society. It is comprised of approx. 15 representatives from relevant stakeholder groups. The Council met three times in 2018.

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbete-i-samhallet/Miljoarbete-i-Sverige/Uppdelat-efter-omrade/Avfall/Vem-gor-vad/Avfallsradet/>

### Current issues in areas related to RL2

#### Innovative and/or advanced technologies

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency carries out on the government's commission (“regeringsuppdrag”) to administer calls for support for cutting-edge technologies and advanced system solutions for sustainable urban development for the years 2016-2019. Reporting is delivered annually on March 15, 2017-2019.

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbete-i-samhallet/Miljoarbete-i-Sverige/Regeringsuppdrag/Mangmiljonsatsning-pa-ny-teknik-for-hallbar-stadsutveckling/>

### Current issues in areas related to RL4

#### Storm water

The Agency is responsible for analyzing the state of knowledge and challenges on storm water

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbete-i-samhallet/Miljoarbete-i-Sverige/Regeringsuppdrag/Redovisade-2017/Analysera-kunskapslaget-for-dagvattenproblematiken/>

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency will provide SEK 25 million in 2018 for measures that reduce pollution and waterborne micro plastics. This spend can be applied for by property owners, municipalities, companies and others.

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Nyheter-och-pressemeddelanden/25-miljoner-for-att-minska-foreningar-och-mikroplaster-i-dagvatten/>

### Current issues in areas related to RL5

- In the Environmental Protection Agency's ongoing work on littering through a government commission on littering (“nedskräpningsuppdrag”), six (6) standards linked to the Packaging Directive 94/62 / EC are examined. In line with Annex 2 of the Packaging Directive, we are in the process of developing the standards and design requirements for packaging. Within this ongoing process, we have to date considered how to make said standards more widely available and user-friendly. The end result of the process will include concrete suggestions on preventing contamination during product design phase, increased reusability, etc.
- Within our commissioned work on micro plastics (“mikroplastuppdrag”), the Agency is in process of compiling knowledge and initiatives about filter options for washing machines, at the same time as we are testing the filters' effectiveness to prevent the release of micro plastics. Focus is specifically on washing machines for private consumers.

- In addition to this, we collect best practice stories from private initiatives – for instance “Svensk Dagligvaruhandel” (an association for food retail), which works to be fossil-free and minimize plastic use, and FTI (a nation-wide recycling system for packaging and newspapers) which has developed a guide for packaging design so that the packaging can be recycled.

#### Current issues in areas related to RL6

- The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency have been commissioned to identify significant sources of plastic micro particles released into the marine environment in Sweden, and to reduce the release of micro plastics from these sources. The work was reported to the Ministry of the Environment and Energy on 2 June 2017 <http://www.swedishepa.se/Environmental-objectives-and-cooperation/Swedish-environmental-work/Government-commissions/Reported-2017/Microplastics/>

An important/ relevant finding from the report summary – “Based on the survey results, we have concluded that the following sources should primarily be addressed in Sweden: Roads and tires, artificial turf pitches, industrial production and management of primary plastic, washing of synthetics, boat hull paint and littering. According to estimates, these sources represent the biggest release of micro plastics to the ocean in Sweden.”

#### Artificial turf pitches and micro plastic particles

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Nyheter-och-pressmeddelanden/Ny-vagledning-om-mikroplaster-fran-konstgrasplaner/>

Financing is available to reduce environmental impact from artificial turf. This among the measures proposed in the government-commissioned work on micro plastics.

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbete-i-samhallet/Miljoarbete-i-Sverige/Regeringsuppdrag/Redovisade-2017/Mikroplaster--kallor-och-forslag-pa-atgarder-/Bestallargrupp-for-konstgrasplaner/>

#### Research Announcement

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) invite researchers to apply for projects related to micro plastics on a regular basis.

<http://www.swedishepa.se/Guidance/Research/For-applicants-and-reviewers/Closed-Calls1/Call-for-funding-research-in-the-area-of-Microplastics/>

#### Summary introduction for the plastic work done by the Swedish environmental protection agency

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/upload/miljoarbete-i-samhallet/miljoarbete-i-sverige/avfall/avfallsradet/2018/presentation-naturvardsverket-aktuellt-plastarbete.pdf>

#### Current issues in areas related to RL7

- **Advanced wastewater treatment technology**

Advanced wastewater treatment for separation and removal of pharmaceutical residues and other hazardous substances (Report 6803 April 2017). Section 5 (p.29) provides an assessment of available techniques and can be offered as input to the discussion proposed under RL7 on a regional report on techniques <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Documents/publikationer6400/978-91-620-6803-5.pdf?pid=21820>