


OSPAR COMMISSION Protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources



Example for prevention initiative within implementation of OSPAR RAP ML


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Photo: F.Kirschhof

OSPAR Commission

16 Contracting Parties

- Belgium
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The United Kingdom
- European Union



OSPAR Maritime Area and Regions:
Region I: Arctic Waters
Region II: Greater North Sea
Region III: Celtic Seas
Region IV: Bay of Biscay/Iberian Coast
Region V: Wider Atlantic

OSPAR ML Indicators

Common


- Beach Litter
- Plastic particles in Fulmars stomachs
- Seabed litter (IBTS)

Candidate

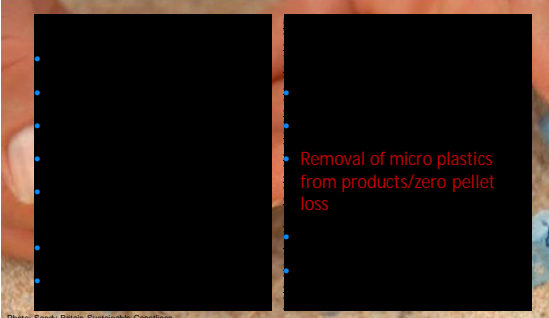
- Micro particles in turtle stomachs

In development

- Microplastics in sediments
- Ingestion in other biota and entanglement



Key action areas RAP ML



Removal of micro plastics from products/zero pellet loss


Photo: Sandy Britain Sustainable Coastlines

Example: Actions on primary microplastics

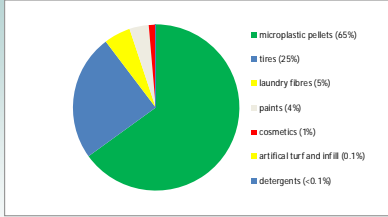
Action 46: Evaluate all products and processes that include primary micro plastics and act, if appropriate, to reduce their impact on the marine environment (Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands)

Action 47: Engage and explore a voluntary agreement to phase out the use of micro plastics 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 micro plastics in personal care and cosmetic products.

Action 52: Promote initiatives and exchange of best practise aiming at zero pellet loss along the whole plastics manufacturing chain from productions to transport.



Assessing sources, pathways, concentrations and impacts of MP



Source	Contribution (%)
microplastic pellets	65%
tires	25%
laundry fibres	5%
paints	4%
cosmetics	1%
artificial turf and infill	0.1%
detergents	<0.1%

Contribution of 7 sources to the emission of microplastics.

Dialogue with Cosmetic Sector - results

- Two meetings in April 2015 and March 2017
- Toothpastes: MP free, shower gels/peelings on the way → Cosmetics Europe: reduction of MP between 2012 and 2015 from 4360 t to 700 t (-82%)
- Target product group will be widened to include all rinse-off products
- Leave-on products so far not addressed based on the assumption, that proper de-makeup leads to disposal via consumer waste
- Joined work on definition (of the MP that should be faced out) and substitutes



Way forward

- EU Circular Economy Package – Roadmap Plastics Strategy expected by end of 2017: will contain further specifications for the reduction of marine litter including microplastics
- OSPAR to decide whether to wait for Plastics Strategy first or to call for a European ban in the view of regulatory steps already taken by some CPs
- Adoption of assessment document of sources, pathways, concentrations and impacts of microplastics at the annual commissions meeting (OSPAR 2017)
- Next source (OSPAR 2016): pre-production pellets (granulates), background paper in development, questionnaire has been circulated to CPs



Many thanks for your attention!

