




Mainstreaming the work of the Regional Seas Programmes towards the better implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the achievement of global commitments on marine litter

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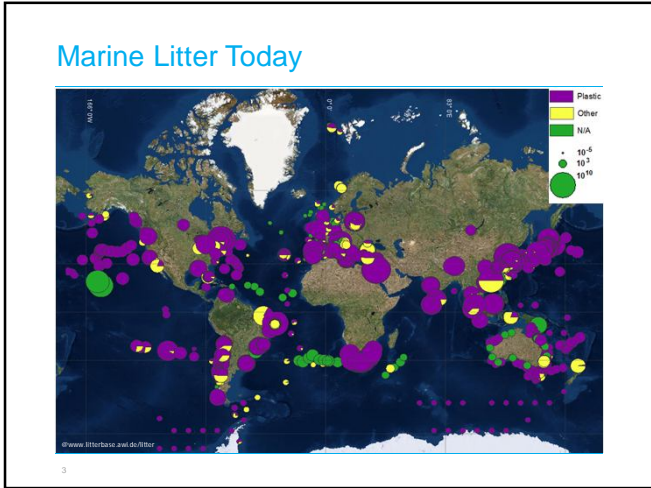
Marine Litter – History



Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea
by Jules Verne's, 1870
Chapter 12 - The Sargasso Sea, P.276:

"Above us, huddled among the brown weeds, there floated objects originating from all over: tree trunks ripped from the Rocky Mountains or the Andes and sent floating down the Amazon or the Mississippi, numerous pieces of wreckage, remnants of keels or undersides, bulwarks slaved in and so weighed down with seashells and barnacles, they couldn't rise to the surface of the ocean."

Jules Verne



Regional Seas and G7 APML





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* The UN Environment Regional Seas Programme covers eighteen Regional Seas, including seven programmes that are administered by UN Environment. Most functions through Action Plans adopted by Member Governments; fourteen of these programmes have also adopted legally binding Conventions.

G7 Milestones on Marine Litter

- Acknowledged that marine litter and plastic pose a global threat for the marine environment;
- Reaffirmed their commitment to achieving an ambitious and universal Post-2015 Development Agenda
- Adoption of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter defining and specifying priority actions to address: i) Land-based Sources, ii) Removal Actions, iii) Sea-based Sources, and iv) Education, Research, and Outreach;
- Reaffirmed the importance of partnerships, resource efficiency and the 3Rs;
- Prioritizing actions for plastic and microplastics;
- The first summit, since the adoption of the UN SDGs, to discuss policy questions vital to global efforts;
- Achieving global commitments on marine litter;
- Mainstreaming the work of the RSs towards the better implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.

Regional Actions to Combat Marine Litter

- Global Partnership on Marine Litter
- Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean
- Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Baltic Area
- Marine Litter Regional Action Plan for the North-East Atlantic
- Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management for the wider Caribbean
- Pacific Regional Integrated Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy
- Regional Plan on Marine Litter for the Northwest Pacific
- Guidelines on the application of fishing gear marking
- Monitoring and managing abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear and ghost fishing

The Mediterranean Response to Combat Marine Litter

- The first ever legally binding Regional Plan on Marine Litter providing for a set of programmes of measures and implementation timetable;
- A decision to support the implementation of the Regional Plan: implementation guidelines, regional assessment, baseline values and environmental reduction targets;
- Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter consisting of 20 regional and international partners with mandates and activities contributing to the environmentally sound management of marine litter;
- Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP);
- Basin-wide Marine Litter Monitoring in the framework of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria (IMAP).



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Conclusions

- Marine litter from Land-based Sources: RSs have a great interest and involvement in improving national waste management systems, improve reuse and recycling, reduce waste generation, limit marine litter entering the sea from sewage and storm waters, and reduce disposable single-use plastic items;
- Removal of marine litter: special priority is given from the RSs in the identification of hot-spots and accumulation areas along with the application of practices to remove existing marine litter (e.g. FTL);
- Marine litter from Sea-based Sources: all RSs strongly support the implementation of MARPOL Annex V, along with the fishing gear marking and incentives to fishermen to minimize the loss of fishing gear;
- Education and Outreach: RSs are focusing in specific training and education for a large number of sectors, voluntary clean-up campaigns, data banks for marine litter available to the large public and TV and radio programmes.

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Need for Action!



Found in the Aegean Sea (Greece) while surveying seafloor marine litter in August 2015, at a depth of approx. 450m.
Originated back to 1980, with the fact table fully written in Italian.

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Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention



Thank you

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