



G7 Workshop on Marine Litter

“Mainstreaming the work of the Regional Sea Programmes towards the better implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the achievement of the global commitments on marine litter”
(Rome, Italy – 20-21 April 2017)

The Way Forward

The relevance of the regional dimension in the implementation of the G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter

The participants in the workshop, in order to foster discussion on how the work of the Regional Seas programmes may contribute to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to combat Marine Litter, have considered the following:

- as stated among the overarching principles of the G7 Action Plan " [...] where available, the use of existing platforms and tools for cooperation will reduce duplication and take advantage of progress made (e.g. the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans) and therefore support their use";
- in general terms, Regional Seas programmes, in tackling the marine litter issue, demonstrate an approach that is compatible with the objectives and the priority actions contained in the G7 Action Plan and the regional dimension appears to be crucial to its implementation;
- as the regions are significantly diverse, the Regional Seas programmes present different institutional, regulatory and operational mechanisms. Their capacity, access to resources and priorities may differ accordingly;
- the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations may have an important



role to play in addressing, at regional level, specific marine litter issues related to fisheries;

- processes, initiatives and actors at the global (e. g. GPA and its partnerships and campaigns), regional and national levels need to effectively interact and contribute to ensure coherence, complementarities and impact;

- aligning specific regional and national priorities on marine litter with global strategic goals (e. g. the relevant Sustainable Development Goals) is important.

Based on the presentations on the implementation of the G7 APML and on the activities at regional and national level, participants in the workshop highlighted the following needs and priorities for the way forward:

- mapping of processes, initiatives, and mandates to allow higher effectiveness and better coordination of the collective responses to marine litter challenges;

- identification and filling of knowledge gaps, with a specific consideration for marine plastic litter, through research, monitoring and assessment;

- identification of common goals for the progressive reduction and elimination of marine litter;

- identification, testing and dissemination of best practices among all actors to ensure most effective actions;

- harmonization and standardization of methodologies, in particular for monitoring and assessment;

- involvement of all stakeholders, including by promoting partnerships, noting the importance of the private sector;



- capacity building and resource mobilization to address marine litter;
- technology transfer and knowledge sharing;
- education and awareness-raising;
- effective management of waste, including prevention, in the frame of resource efficiency and circular economy;
- progressive reduction of single-use plastics and microplastics, considering resource efficiency over the entire life cycle of the products, to avoid the leakage of plastics to the marine environment,;
- assessment and reduction of marine litter impact on biodiversity, especially in marine protected areas;
- assessment and reduction of the socio-economic impacts of marine litter, including on human health