



# Establishing Synergies: Mediterranean and Baltic Seas to identify where marine litter is accumulating



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Christos Ioakeimidis, Marine Litter Expert  
Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)  
UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan, Barcelona Convention

# The UN Environment MAP/Barcelona Convention



Albania



Algeria



Bosnia  
Herzegovina



Croatia



Cyprus



Egypt



France



Greece



Israel



Italy



Lebanon



Libya



Malta



Monaco



Montenegro



Morocco



Slovenia



Spain



Syria



Tunisia

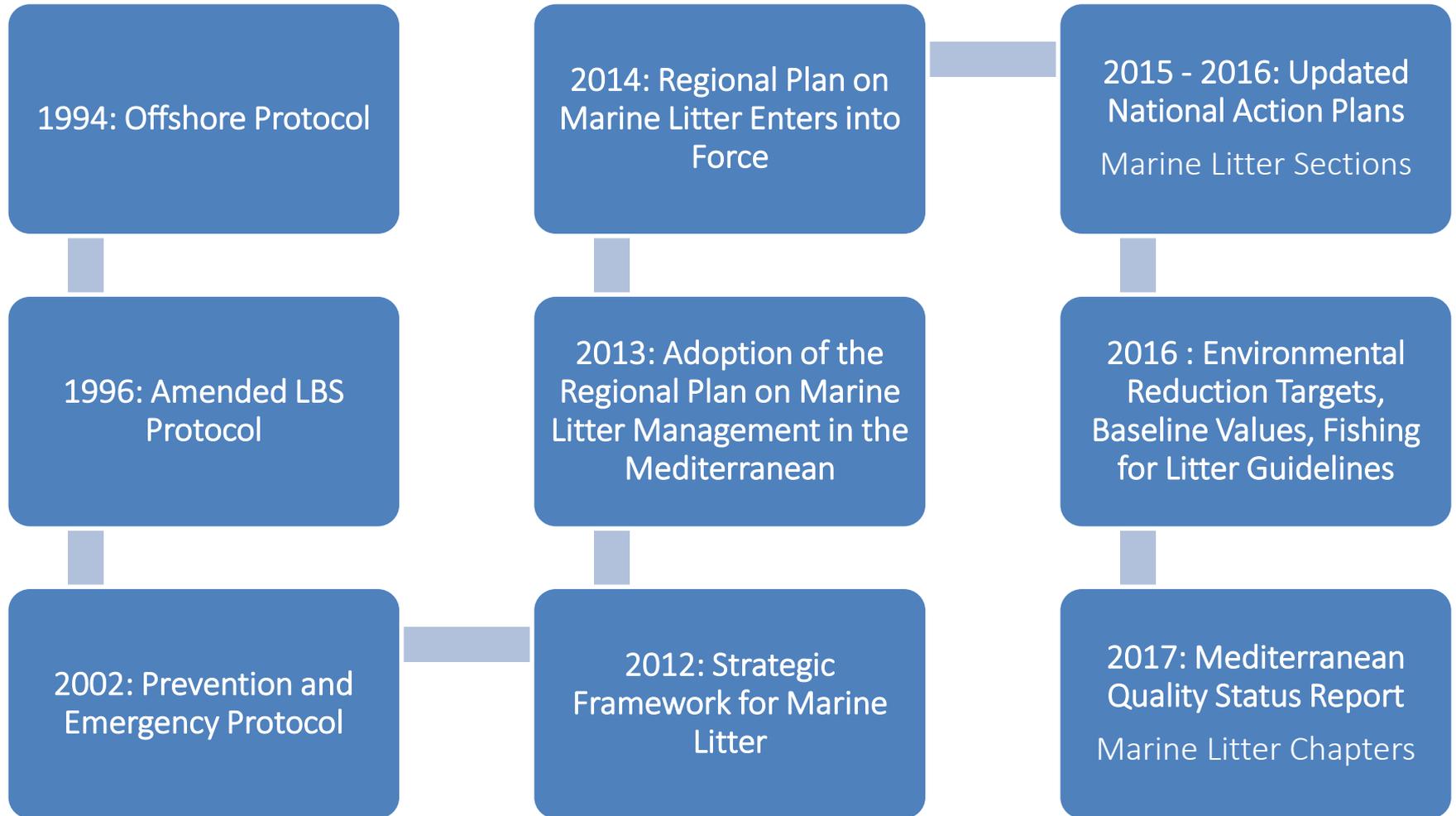


Turkey



The European  
Union

# MAP/Barcelona Convention and Marine Litter



# Barcelona Convention

## Mediterranean Action Plan Response on Marine Litter

- The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention);
- Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol);
- National Action Plans (NAPs) of the Mediterranean Countries;
- Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (adopted since 2013);
- Implementation Guidelines (since 2016) e.g. Fishing-for-litter to support the implementation of the RPML;
- Baseline Values and Environmental Reduction Targets;
- 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report;
- Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean;
- Regional Action Plan on Sustainable and Consumption and Production (SCP) (since 2016);
- Basin-wide Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria (IMAP).
- Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter (under development)



# Implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter

## The EU-funded “Marine Litter MED” Project: Objectives

- To support UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention and its Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement key common measures provided for in the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, and updated National Action Plans to achieve GES in synergy and coherence with the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and H2020 initiative.
- To contribute to the region wide ML reduction targets as approved by COP 19 of the UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention, the MSSD and UN Environment/MAP MTS 2016-2021 as well as UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.



# Implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter

## The EU-funded “Marine Litter MED” Project: **Specific Objectives**

- Enhance the implementation of selected ML policy/regulatory prevention and reduction common measures at sub-regional/national levels and sharing of related best practices as identified in the updated NAPs in Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighbourhood countries;
- Develop and apply regionally harmonized approaches, guidelines and tools to ensure effective implementation of selected measures (participation of all Contracting Parties, including EU on non-cost basis);
- Establish regional coordination mechanisms for ML prevention and management in the Mediterranean to maximize synergies through cooperation and exchange of best practices; and
- Establish regional coordination mechanisms for ML with other regional actors and European Regional Seas Conventions, with a particular focus on collaboration with the Black Sea Commission.



# Marine Litter MED: Main Outputs

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**Output A:** Assisting the implementation of the ML Regional Plan at sub-regional levels with a particular focus on the up to five most common ML measures provided in the updated NAPs.

**Output B:** Strengthening the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional level to reduce and prevent ML generation from land-based and sea-based sources including pilot interventions (EU countries to participate on a no-cost basis).

**Output C:** Assisting the establishment of regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms with relevant regional actors as well as European Regional Sea Conventions to enhance synergies for the implementation of the ML Action Plans adopted or in process of preparation, with a particular focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission.



# Marine Litter MED: Main Activities

## Implementation of key best practices measures on marine litter as identified in the NAPs:

- “Fishing-for-Litter” and “Adopt-a-beach” measures;
- Reduction of impacts of marine litter and micro-litter in the biota with a focus on endangered species;
- Enhancement of regulatory framework for banning of single-use plastic bags and other single-use products and promotion of EPR;
- Better management of sea-based litter in ports.

## Strengthening the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional level:

- Guidelines for the implementation of the key marine litter best practices;
- Risk assessment tool to define the ghost net accumulation areas and propose environmental sound ways for their removal

## Assisting the establishment of regional and bilateral cooperation mechanisms with relevant regional actors as well as European Regional Seas:

- Cooperation with the Black Sea Commission;
- Coordination among European Regional Seas;
- Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean.



# Risk Assessment Tool

Develop a risk assessment tool, in the framework of the Marine Litter MED project, for identifying where in the Mediterranean accumulations of ghost nets poses a threat and should be removed:

- Collect and assess available/existing data on seafloor marine litter and fishing gear in the Mediterranean;
- Collect and assess the existing information on modelling marine litter transportation and/or accumulation in the Mediterranean (including beaching);
- Develop a GIS mapping system where all the available information is compiled in order to identify the potential marine litter accumulation zones;
- Develop a map with a proposal of areas where ghost nets are accumulating;
- Evaluate any possible links between the accumulation of the corresponding marine litter items and hydrodynamic factors;
- Assess their impact in the marine environment and on marine organisms and propose environmentally-sound ways to remove them;
- Provide information on practices that contribute to the problem but could be part of the solution.



# Risk Assessment Tool

In the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection:

- Sub-regional meeting on the application of developed tools for identifying and assessing marine litter hotspots.
- The main objective will be to enhance knowledge and capacities on the use of the developed tool in the Adriatic sub region and share experiences and lessons learnt.
- Expected Outcome: National capacities of Adriatic countries in applying tools for identification and assessment of marine litter hotspots strengthened



# Synergies with MARELITT BALTIC Project



## Environmental Impact Assessment – Report (WSP Sweden)

The environmental impacts of DFG retrieval operations have, to our knowledge, never before been thoroughly investigated and development of guidelines or good environmental practices are needed. These guidelines can be used during the planning of retrieval operations to highlight the possible impacts the operation can have on the environment and can help to minimize these impacts. It is important to consider whether the retrieval operations themselves can cause harm to the marine environment, and therefore when it is accordingly better to avoid DFG retrieval.

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PHOTO: WWF GERMANY



## Harbour Reception Survey – Report 4.1

The objective was to assess the readiness, capability and capacity of Baltic Sea fishing harbours to receive, separately collect and sort the derelict fishing gear (DFG) collected from the sea as well as end-of-life fishing gear. Fifty fishing harbours by the Baltic Sea were visited during the survey. The results reveal that more than half of the harbours selected for participation in the survey have organised waste management services at a reasonably good level...

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## Recycling Options for Derelict Fishing Gear - Report 4.2

When derelict fishing gear (DFG) is retrieved from the sea, the material is highly mixed and contains metal anchors, chains, organic matter, and other marine litter as well as nets, ropes, float and sink lines. So how could retrieved fishing gear be treated to enter the value and recycling chain? And what preparation is necessary for a full recycle scheme? This report on technical feasibility describes in detail the results of all DFG recycling trials and the physical and chemical properties derived to evaluate the material quality of lost fishing gears retrieved from the Baltic Sea.

[READ FULL REPORT](#)

[READ THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY](#)

[READ THE MAKSC TEST REPORT](#)

PHOTO: WWF GERMANY

## Upcoming Material:

- DFG treatment scheme;
- MARELITT host area maps;

## Ongoing work:

- Can fishermen dismantle the DFG and remove bulky items, where can the material be shipped for further processing?
- Ways to process retrieved materials?
- Retrieval methods?

# Synergies with **MARELITT BALTIC Project**

Workshop on the side of the **2018 Fish Forum:**

*“Prevention and reduction of marine litter from fisheries and aquaculture and related impacts on marine ecosystems”*

Key Presentation from **WWF Germany** (Dr. Andrea Stolte, Project Manager Derelict Fishing Gear, WWF Germany) about the EU-funded MARELITT Baltic project with a particular focus on how reduce the impact of marine litter in the form of derelict fishing gear in the Baltic Sea.



# Prevention and reduction of marine litter from fisheries and aquaculture and related impacts on marine ecosystems

Rome, Italy, 10 December 2018

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- To coordinate the mechanism of implementation of 4 European RSCs ML RAPs with relevant fisheries organizations and initiatives on regional and global level (UN activities, FAO (GFCM), CBD Convention, Regular process on Global Reporting (World Ocean Assessment II); Global Working Group on Indicators; EU MSFD, SOI Initiative, Ocean Governance, SDGs, Aichi Targets etc.).
- To harmonize the approaches on establishing the baselines for ML and monitoring techniques on regional and global level.
- To encourage appropriate involvement of various authorities and other stakeholders (Regional, National and local authorities from Fisheries and Aquaculture sector, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Civil society.
- Leaving lost fishing gear in the environment has more severe long-term impacts than retrieval with low-impact gear (ghost fishing and microplastics introduction into the marine food web). Where possible, DFG should be removed in an ecologically responsible way.
- Working with local fishers and divers is key to find hot spots and carry out cleaning actions.
- Harbour reception and waste management solutions do not exist today and need to be developed for fishing gear retrieved from the sea.
- Best practice management of fishing gear needs to be considered at all stages of the fishing gear life cycle - from manufacture to disposal and potential re-use/recycling or even circular economy possibilities.
- International instruments already exist and can be used to assist GFCM and its Members in the development in their action plan to address marine litter, in the form of FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the new Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear, as well as related mandatory instruments of IMO such as MARPOL Annex V and the London Convention/Protocol.
- GFCM strategy could include enhanced collaboration between GFCM, UNEP-MAP and other regional stakeholders to consider strengthening the existing regional marine litter plan with regards to fisheries related measures through the enhanced involvement of fisheries stakeholders.

# EU-funded Marine Litter MED Project: Key Achievements

- Fishing-for-Litter and Adopt-a-beach measures in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia and capacity building workshops organized.
- Defining most representative species for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24.
- Training session for sharing technical skills on marine litter ingestion by sea turtles (Portici, Naples, 6 July 2017; Monastir, Tunisia, 1-2 November 2018).
- Specific Protocol on monitoring amounts of litter ingested by or entangling selected species to harmonize methods and data collection (synergy with EU-funded INDICIT project).
- SCP and EPR: formal commitment of 4 national governments (Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt) and review of the existing regulatory framework on non-single use plastics, for the countries participating in the project. Phase out single-use plastic bags from the Mediterranean.
- Study: Existing best practices in the Mediterranean and other European Regional Seas for application of charges at reasonable costs and No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities” (WG. 452/Inf.5).
- Pilot projects to Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia for selection of major ports and marinas.
- Organisation of a field visit by Port Authorities representatives in the Port of Antwerp, as a reference port (Antwerp, Belgium, 30-31 October 2018).
- Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Black Sea Region (adopted in Oct. 2018).



# EU-funded Marine Litter MED Project: Key Achievements

## Development of Regional Marine Litter Guidelines:

- ✓ Reference document on the situation of single use plastic bags in MENA region and options for reduction including implementation road map (WG.452/4).
- ✓ Draft elements for implementation of the AaB prepared (WG.452/5).
- ✓ Main elements of draft operational guidelines on the “provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes” (WG.452/6).
- ✓ Main elements of a guidance document to “determine application of charges at reasonable costs for use of port reception facilities or application of the No-Special-Fee system” (WG.452/7).

## Organization of Regional Meetings:

- ✓ Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 Oct. 2018).
- ✓ Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Seville, Spain, April 2019, tbc).



# Thank you



Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit  
Barcelona Convention Secretariat



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Christos Ioakeimidis  
Marine Litter Expert  
Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)  
UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan  
Barcelona Convention Secretariat  
[christos.ioakeimidis@un.org](mailto:christos.ioakeimidis@un.org)

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