



Monitoring Marine Litter in Europe: Marine Strategy Framework Directive



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Joint
Research
Centre

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Marine Strategy Framework Directive

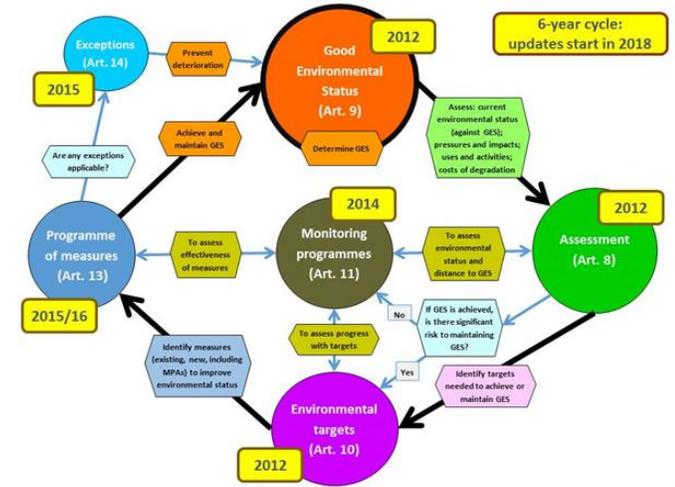
Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC is the environmental pillar of the EU Maritime Policy (DG ENV)

Monitoring, Assessment and Measures provided for 11 Descriptors of the Marine Environmental Status

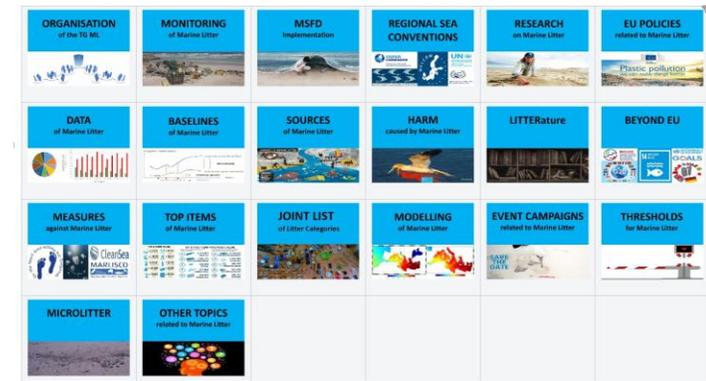
Close collaboration with neighbouring Regional Sea Conventions in shared Marine Basins and with EEA

EMODnet as Data Portal for Data collection and management (DG MARE)

MSFD Descriptor 10: Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment



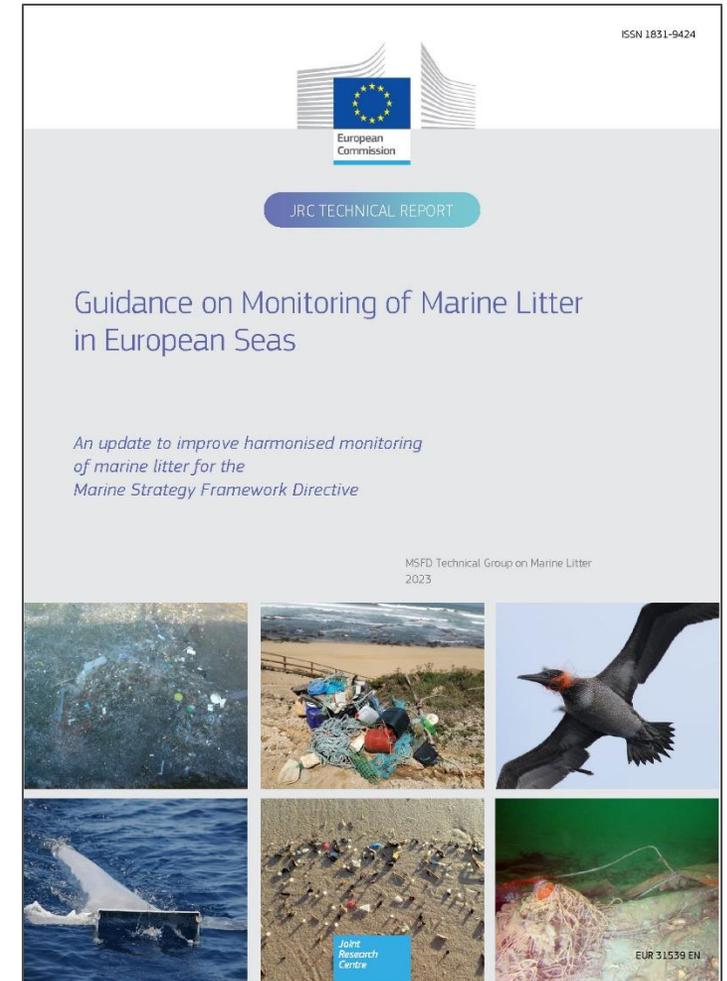
MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter



- Technical Group under MSFD CIS
- All EU MS + Regional Sea Conventions, EC, EEA, EMSA, ad hoc experts
- Linked to Scientific Communities (Floating Macro Litter, Seafloor Macro Litter, Micro Litter)
- Providing agreed guidance, discussing approaches, preparing Baselines, Threshold Value setting, etc.
- Information exchange platform on marine litter relevant topics
- Website for sharing outcome:
<https://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/main/dev.py?N=41&O=433>

Guidance on Monitoring Marine Litter

- Update from previous 2013 version.
- Recommendations for harmonisation to ensure consistency and comparability of monitoring data
- The assembly to full version is complete, delay in publication
- Minor corrections and final editorial/language check are ongoing before publication



Conceptual approach to litter monitoring data

- Background information on methodology and approaches
- Collection of available/accessible data (literature, institutions, projects, EU Member States)
- Analysis of collected data + metadata*
- Planning of database structure (vocabulary, quality check, ingestion)
- Collecting all EU MS data (cleaning, checking, normalising)
- Derive a baseline approach (develop a Threshold Value setting)
- Set-up continuous data collection
- Derive trends

*Feedback to monitoring methodology development



Current EU wide data availability



Beach/Coastline macro litter



Floating macro litter



Seafloor macro litter



Floating micro litter

Joint List of Litter Categories

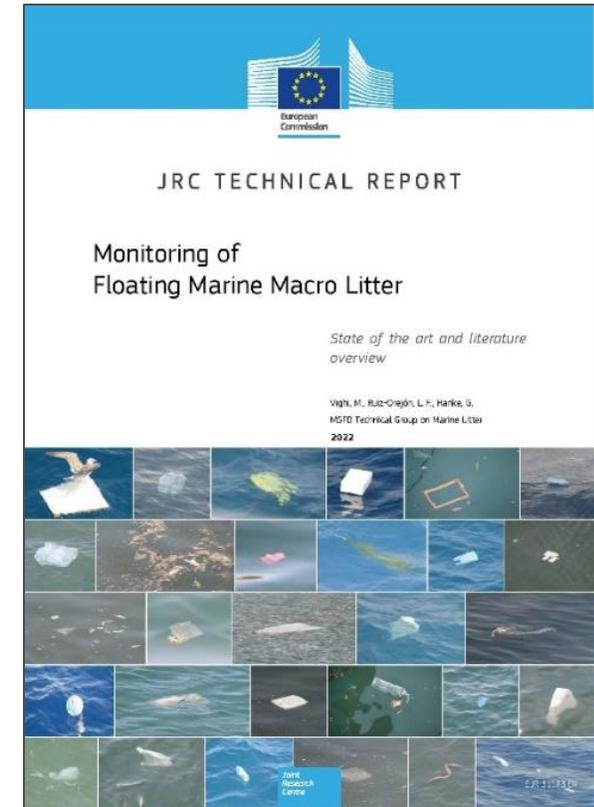
- Joint List of Litter Categories for harmonised reporting of macro litter data
- Close collaboration with Regional Sea Conventions
- Next steps:
 - Revising the list (minor)
 - Continued implementation



Where does the harmonisation take place?

- Experts in TG ML + Scientific Communities/Research project input, incl. outside EU
- Examples:
 - Floating Macro Litter (workshops, discussions, background document, guidance development)
 - Seafloor Macro Litter (workshops*, publication, guidance development)

* Recent International Workshop on Seafloor Litter Imaging and Observation (Catania, Italy 19.-21.9.2023)



upcoming Microlitter (incl. Microplastics) Position Paper

- TG Litter report to identify and solve open issues (note the relevance for Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution)
- Uptake of relevant research outputs (from JPI Ocean projects, HORIZON projects, etc.)
- Main topics:
 - Monitoring strategies (e.g. monitoring matrix)
 - Microlitter (incl. -plastic) between environmental compartments (incl. WFD, EU Chemicals Strategy, etc.)
 - Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) - (including reference materials)
 - Research and development needs

Outlook

- Harmonisation of monitoring methods is advanced, still open issues
- Need hands-on direct expertise in TG Litter to address open questions
- Need to ensure direct close collaboration in future support projects
- Need to provide cross-compartment information exchange (e.g, freshwater-marine)
- Invitation to JPI Ocean Projects to provide input to MP Position Paper



Thank you



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