



Marine Litter and the MSFD

Plastic Busters MPAs CAPITALIZATION EVENT

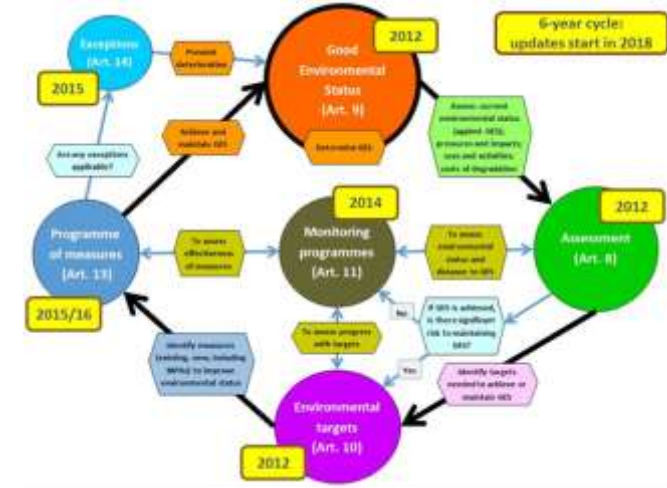
17.6.2021

Georg Hanke EC JRC + TG ML

Contact: georg.hanke@ec.europa.eu

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC is the environmental pillar of the EU Maritime Policy (DG ENV)
- MSFD Descriptor 10: Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment
- 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 Technical Group on Marine Litter TG ML as forum for discussion, agreement and harmonization



MSFD Coastline (Beach) Litter Data

Data from > 300 Beaches across EU

Data collection with EMODnet

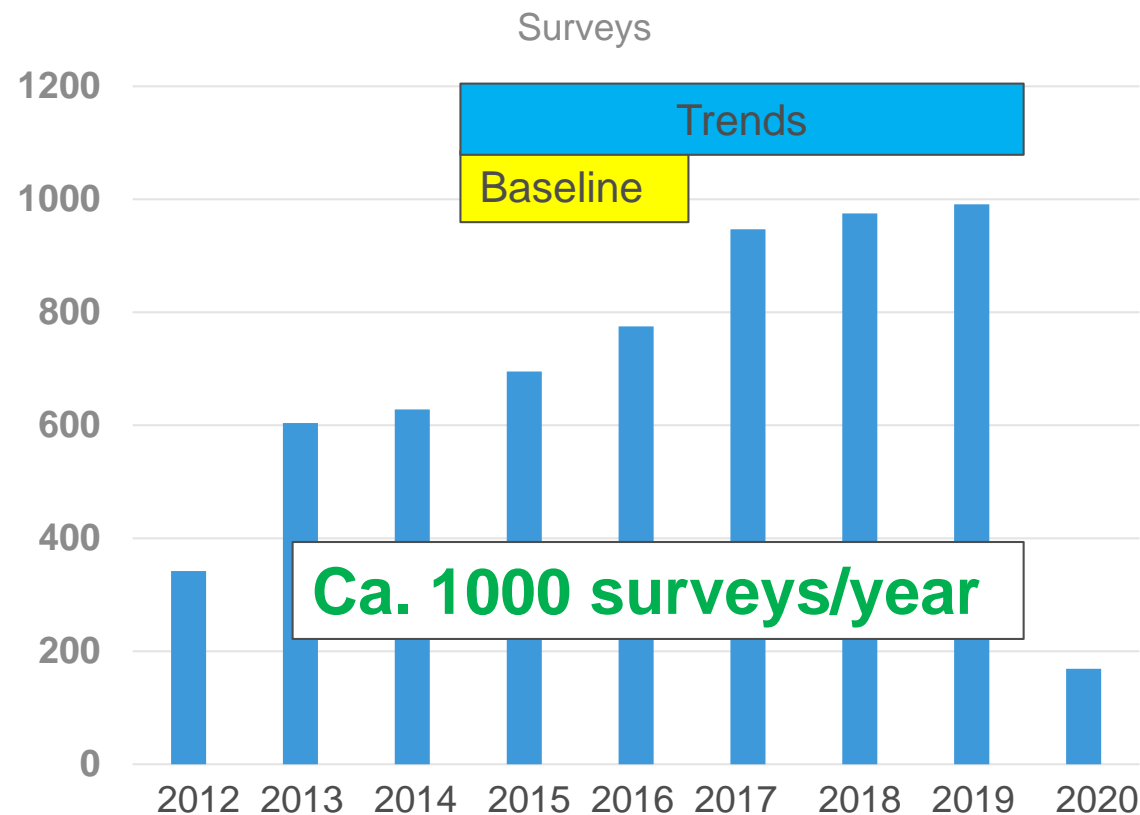
2012-2020

7715 surveys (100 m linear coastline)



EMODnet

European Marine Observation and Data Network



Output from Beach Litter data compilation

- Top Marine Beach Litter items on EU beaches

Input to development of **DIRECTIVE (EU) 2019/904** on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment.

- Baselines 2015/2016

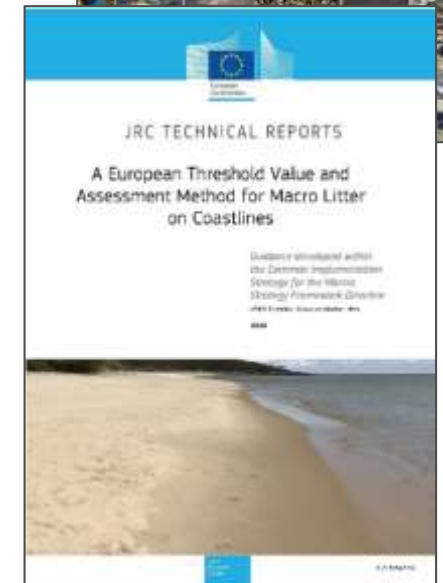
Enabling an overview and comparable baselines in Regions and across EU, being the basis for Threshold development.

- Threshold development (20 Litter items/100 m coastline)

Enabling Assessments by EU Member States to work towards Good Environmental Status.

Reports available on the TG Marine Litter website:

https://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/main/dev.py?N=41&O=434&titre_chap=TG%20Litter



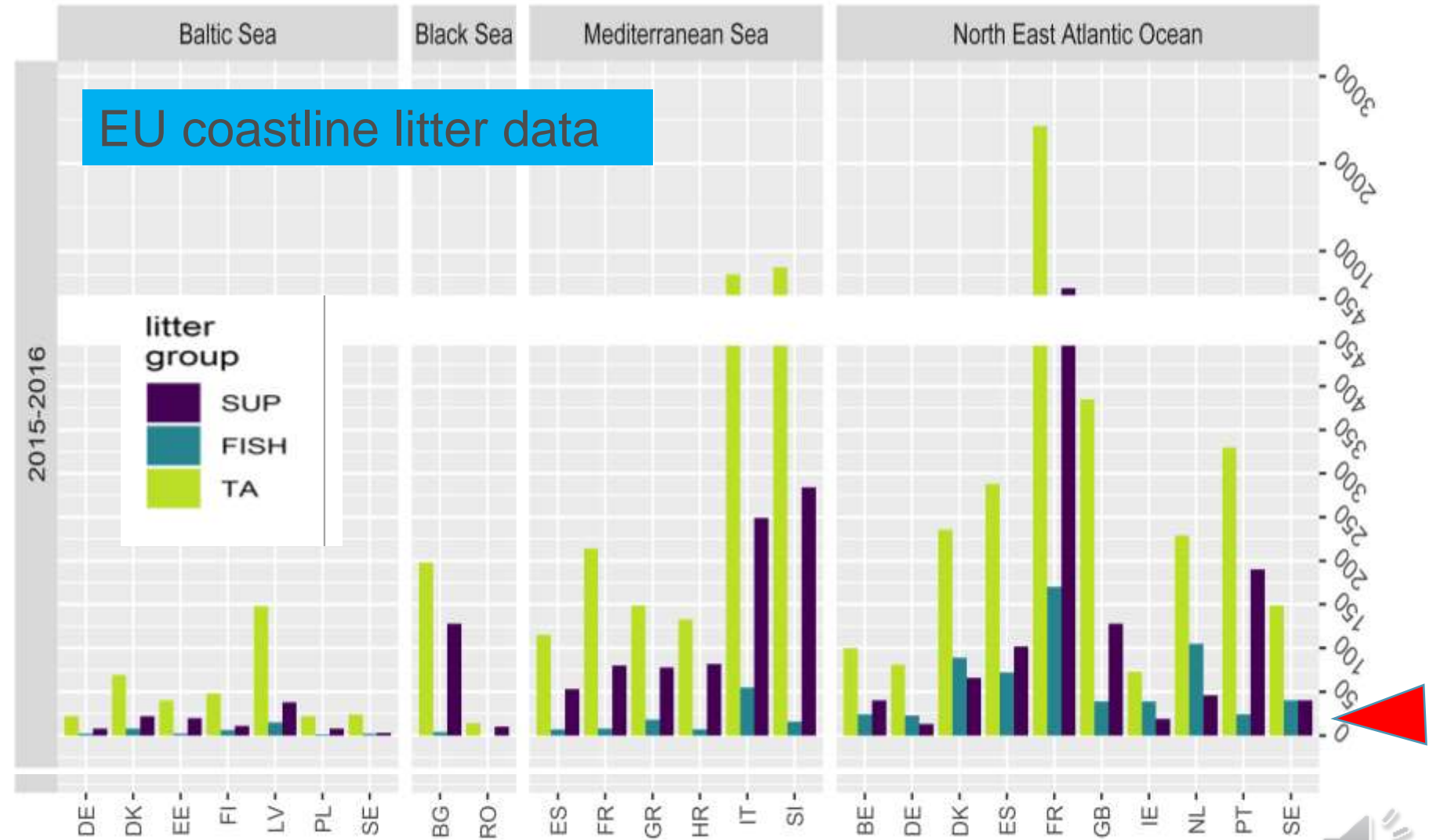
EU Beach Litter Baseline + Threshold Value

Threshold Value

20 macro litter items /100 m linear coastline

Next:

- Developing intermediate targets
- Modelling transboundary litter transport



Guidance for Monitoring of Marine Litter - Update 2021

Continuous development of litter monitoring approaches based on research results and experiences in data acquisition.

Harmonisation of strategies and methodologies to improve the comparability of data.

- Beach (Coastline) Litter; Based on data compilations
- Floating Marine Macro Litter: FMML Background report
- Seafloor Macro Litter: „The Quest for Seafloor Litter“, Canals et al. 2020
- Microlitter: MSFD Position Paper (in preparation)
- Litter ingestion and entanglement



Joint List of Litter Categories

A practical guidance for harmonised macrolitter monitoring

- „a bottle is bottle and a bag is a bag...“, no „rocket science“, but crucial to have one (!) agreed approach, compatible between regions
- A hierarchical list for unambiguous identification of macro litter (enabling links with measures) developed by TG Marine Litter with RSCs
- Coding system (letter code + J-codes) and explanations/guidance for the implementation
- Material, Use, 3 Level Item Categories
- A photo guide enhances common understanding across language barriers

<https://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/main/photocatalogue.py?N=41&O=457&cat=all>



8. The Joint List (3-CODE Set)

Type Code	Use	Code	Definition
A.L.S.M.	001	001
A.L.S.M.	002	002
A.L.S.M.	003	003
A.L.S.M.	004	004
A.L.S.M.	005	005
A.L.S.M.	006	006
A.L.S.M.	007	007
A.L.S.M.	008	008
A.L.S.M.	009	009
A.L.S.M.	010	010
A.L.S.M.	011	011
A.L.S.M.	012	012
A.L.S.M.	013	013
A.L.S.M.	014	014
A.L.S.M.	015	015
A.L.S.M.	016	016
A.L.S.M.	017	017
A.L.S.M.	018	018
A.L.S.M.	019	019
A.L.S.M.	020	020
A.L.S.M.	021	021
A.L.S.M.	022	022
A.L.S.M.	023	023
A.L.S.M.	024	024
A.L.S.M.	025	025
A.L.S.M.	026	026
A.L.S.M.	027	027
A.L.S.M.	028	028
A.L.S.M.	029	029
A.L.S.M.	030	030
A.L.S.M.	031	031
A.L.S.M.	032	032
A.L.S.M.	033	033
A.L.S.M.	034	034
A.L.S.M.	035	035
A.L.S.M.	036	036
A.L.S.M.	037	037
A.L.S.M.	038	038
A.L.S.M.	039	039
A.L.S.M.	040	040
A.L.S.M.	041	041
A.L.S.M.	042	042
A.L.S.M.	043	043
A.L.S.M.	044	044
A.L.S.M.	045	045
A.L.S.M.	046	046
A.L.S.M.	047	047
A.L.S.M.	048	048
A.L.S.M.	049	049
A.L.S.M.	050	050
A.L.S.M.	051	051
A.L.S.M.	052	052
A.L.S.M.	053	053
A.L.S.M.	054	054
A.L.S.M.	055	055
A.L.S.M.	056	056
A.L.S.M.	057	057
A.L.S.M.	058	058
A.L.S.M.	059	059
A.L.S.M.	060	060
A.L.S.M.	061	061
A.L.S.M.	062	062
A.L.S.M.	063	063
A.L.S.M.	064	064
A.L.S.M.	065	065
A.L.S.M.	066	066
A.L.S.M.	067	067
A.L.S.M.	068	068
A.L.S.M.	069	069
A.L.S.M.	070	070
A.L.S.M.	071	071
A.L.S.M.	072	072
A.L.S.M.	073	073
A.L.S.M.	074	074
A.L.S.M.	075	075
A.L.S.M.	076	076
A.L.S.M.	077	077
A.L.S.M.	078	078
A.L.S.M.	079	079
A.L.S.M.	080	080
A.L.S.M.	081	081
A.L.S.M.	082	082
A.L.S.M.	083	083
A.L.S.M.	084	084
A.L.S.M.	085	085
A.L.S.M.	086	086
A.L.S.M.	087	087
A.L.S.M.	088	088
A.L.S.M.	089	089
A.L.S.M.	090	090
A.L.S.M.	091	091
A.L.S.M.	092	092
A.L.S.M.	093	093
A.L.S.M.	094	094
A.L.S.M.	095	095
A.L.S.M.	096	096
A.L.S.M.	097	097
A.L.S.M.	098	098
A.L.S.M.	099	099
A.L.S.M.	100	100



Next: example Microlitter baselines

Survey on available marine microlitter data in EU is concluded



- Matrices: Beach, Floating, Seafloor, Biota; Temporal scope 2012 - 2020

Marine Microlitter data in EU 2012 - 2020

Beach Microlitter	680
Floating Microlitter	2540
Sediment Microlitter	550
Biota Microlitter	6448

- Next step started: Collection of floating microlitter data in TG ML through EMODnet with the National Oceanographic Data Centres
- Data will be scrutinized, checked and provide baselines of microlitter in the marine environment

Outlook

Development of

- **Baselines**
- **Thresholds**
- **Trends**

Linking monitoring with measures !

Zero Pollution

- **Zero Pollution Action Plan (adopted on 20.5.2021)**
- **improving water quality by reducing waste, plastic litter at sea (by 50%) and microplastics released into the environment (by 30%)**

Quantitative evidence is needed to implement effective measures towards Good Status of the EU and neighbouring seas!



Many thanks for your attention!

