



Ministry of Infrastructure and the  
Environment



# Marine litter policy in the Netherlands

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# Presentation

- International policy framework
- National policy framework
- National implementation strategy





## International policy framework

- Rio +20 Declaration
- Honolulu Commitment & Strategy:
  - To reduce waste in order to halt and reverse the occurrence of marine debris.
- MARPOL Convention (Annex V)
  - The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) prohibits disposal of all waste including plastics (fish nets) from vessels, although there is an exception for foodwaste.
- London Convention:
  - Regulates dumping of wastes at sea on a global basis, with the exception of wastes generated by the normal operations of ships, which instead are subject to MARPOL



## EU and Regional Convention

- OSPAR – Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic:
  - Regional Action Plan in 2014: reduction measures and targets, taking into consideration an ambitious target resulting in a reduction in 2020.
- EU / MSFD- Marine Strategy Framework Directive:
  - Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment.
- 7th EAP and other EU Acquis (e.g. Waste, Port Reception Facilities Directive)

MSFD is most important legal framework for implementation of measures on Marine Litter in the Netherlands.



## MSFD- Good Environmental Status (GES) for Marine litter

### MSFD Proces:

- 2012: Initial assessment on the state of the marine environment, define GES together with targets and indicators
  - Less litter on the beach.
  - Downward trend in impact of litter in marine animals (stomach analyses of Fulmar)
- 2014: monitoring programme
- 2015: programme of measures;
- 2016: implementation of programme of measures
- 2020: achievement of GES?
  
- New MSFD cycle in 2018: new knowledge, new indicators, new targets, new measures

## Dutch Policy objectives on Marine Litter:

- Measures to reduce solid waste/marine litter (by requirements on products and improved waste management)
- More attention for micro-plastic
- Cleaning beaches and fishing for litter project.
- Communication and awareness





# National policy framework

## Two targets for 2020

1. Reduction of visible litter on the beach
2. Decrease in trend on amount of litter in marine organisms (Fulmars)





In the Greater North Sea area OSPAR countries use plastic in Fulmar stomachs as an indicator for Marine Litter. (research at IMARES , Jan Andries Franeker)





## Marine litter in the Netherlands

- North Sea (Netherlands):
  - 100-250 pieces of litter per 100 meter beach
  - Top 10: small pieces rope (fisheries), plastics/polystyreen, fishnets, plastic bottles & caps, PUR foam, balloons, plastic bags
  - 90% of Fulmars have plastic in stomach, 58% exceeds critical level of 0,1 gram. (OSPAR ECoQO: 10% of birds not more than 0,1 gram plastic in stomach)
  - No increase or decrease in trend
  - Increase microplastics (professional guess)
- Sources in the (Dutch part of) North Sea:
  - 44% shipping and fisheries; 30% land; 26% unknown.



## Implementation proces in the Netherlands

- Set up of a policy group involving relevant ministries, research-institutes, lower governments, water authorities. Goal to prepare government decisions, coordinate Dutch implementation process MSFD.
- Organising stakeholder groups (business, research institutes, NGO's, branch organisations). Aim: identifying effective and feasible measures and to gain support. Six clusters: agenda setting & awareness, beaches, river basin catchment areas, shipping, fishing and plastic (waste) recycling.
- Gathering knowledge in four fields:
  - Development of indicators
  - Identifying sources
  - Impact of microplastics
  - Cost – benefit analyses of measures



## Concrete examples of measures

- “fishing for litter” since 2000.  
80 ships collecting yearly  
around 300.000 kilo marine  
litter during normal fishing  
activities.
- In this field Belgium (Flanders)  
and Dutch harbours are working  
on harmonisation of tariffs for  
taking in “fished-up” waste.
- This summer in 24 days 563  
volunteers have cleaned 350  
kilometer. In total collecting  
some 6.590 kilo beachlitter.





## Measures to reduce solid waste /marine litter

- Key for tackling marine litter is to start to avoid wasting resources :
    - Dutch policy paper on “green growth” and particularly by one of the goals: “the transition from litter to resource”.
      - Sustainable sourcing
      - Resource efficiency
      - Eco-design and substitution of non-sustainable materials
      - Re-use and repair
      - Utilisation of rest streams
- From linear economy to circular economy



## From waste to resource.

- Dutch policy on waste. The Netherlands has the goal to increase the recycling rate with 5% (from 78 -> 83%) and a ban on land-fill on 35 waste streams.
  - Key in our policy are steps from waste management, to material chain management, to innovative sustainable materials management, acknowledging producer responsibility.
  - Financial incentives should stimulate to give value to resources
  - Consumersbehavior plays a key role in the economic system.
  - Green deals
  - Important to achieve results in this field is based on cooperation with stakeholders.



## Suggestions for GPML

- Closing of the plastic cycle
  - On the basis of voluntary agreements
    - particularly for private companies on recycling rates in products and also for countries improving their recycling rates.
    - schedules (targets, year and action)
- Sharing best practices on awareness raising and consumers behaviour.



**Thank you for your attention**

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