

Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and Marine Litter



Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)

- The GPA is a flexible global programme to protect coastal and marine environment from land-based activities, which was adopted in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. in 1995; Its implementation is reviewed every five years;
- Intergovernmental mechanism explicitly addressing the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments;
- National implementation through the development and implementation of National Programmes of Action (NPAs); and
- Regional implementation facilitated and supported by/through Regional Seas Action Plans and Conventions and other regional bodies.

Status of preparation

Source categories of the GPA:

- *Sewage/wastewater*
- *Physical alterations and destruction of habitats*
- *Nutrients*
- *Sediment mobilisation*
- *Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)*
- *Oils*
- *Litter*
- *Heavy metals*
- *Radioactive substances*

Continuing trend of marine environmental degradation from Land-based Activities (LBA)

- Approximately 3.4 billion people – more than half the world's population – currently live in coastal areas, accounting for only five percent of inhabited land. By 2025, as much as 75 percent of the global population will live in the coastal fringe;
- Of the 33 largest megacities across the globe, 22 are located in coastal areas, while rapid population growth is also expected in many mid-sized urban centres in coastal areas;
- Increasing number of hypoxia (oxygen depleted areas) associated with excessive nutrient input;
- Linkage with SDG, particularly SDG14 – 14.1 also other SDGs; and
- Marine litter – its impacts on environment and biota and magnitude of problems are becoming known.

GPA Implementation and Ocean Governance

- Many regional seas conventions have established Land-based sources of Pollution protocols;
- Almost all regional seas have included the LBS in their action plans or have established their own LBS action plans/programmes;
- The progress of GPA implementation is reviewed every five years at the inter-governmental levels;
- GPA implementation is connected with the NPAs, regional protocols/action plans, and other policy instruments.
- The implementation of the programmes and plans are carried out through inter-sectoral cooperation at the national and regional levels.
- Contributing to SDGs, MEA decisions and targets, and other international discussion.

Marine Litter/Marine Debris

- One of the source categories of GPA;
- Highlighted in the series of UNEP assessment since 2007;
- Honolulu Commitment and Honolulu Strategy adopted in 2011;
- Emerging issues: microplastics, microbeads, microfibre, POPs adsorption, wildlife entanglement, collection from water column, detection and monitoring, accumulation in ocean gyres.

Emerging Issues - Microplastics

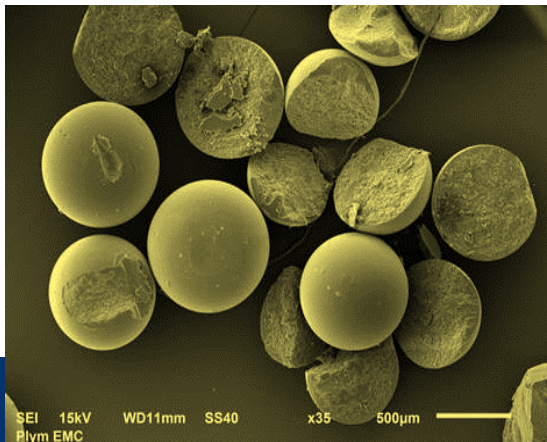
Operational definition – particles
< 5mm



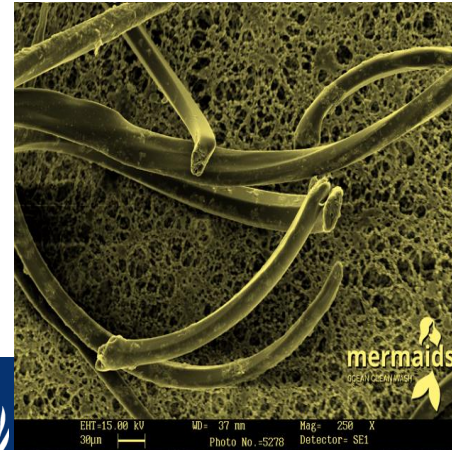
Plastic resin beads, used in plastics manufacture (Ogata)



Beach sample of microplastics, Hawaii (NOAA Marine Debris Program)



Polyethylene microplastics extracted from shower gel



Microfiber from synthetic garment (Mermaids Project)

(A. Bakir and RC Thompson)



1900 fibers/item
35.6 billion laundry loads in Europe alone

Frameworks & MEAs– ML relevant

- Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans;
- IMO- MARPOL 73/78 Annex V (garbage from ships) / London Convention and Protocol on Dumping;
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- Basel Convention;
- CBD, CMS, IWC
- UNCLOS – ICP 17 – Marine debris plastics and microplastics
- GPA - Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;
- G7 Action Plan on ML, OECD, EU, etc.





Global Partnership on
Marine Litter
launched in June
2012 Rio+20 Summit

UNEA Resolution 1/6

Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics:

- Encourages Governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry and others to **cooperate with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter**
- Requests UNEP to provide **support to the development of marine litter action plans** upon request by countries
- Request UNEP ED to **present a study on marine plastic debris & microplastics to UNEA-2**

www.unep.org

www.gpa.unep.org

