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Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring (CORMON Marine Litter)

Videoconference, 30 March 2021

Agenda item 6: Addendum to the MED POL Beach Marine Litter Item List and their Data Standards and Data Dictionaries to include Two New COVID-19 Related Items

Addendum to the MED POL Beach Marine Litter Item List and their Data Standards and Data Dictionaries to include Two New COVID-19 Related Items (Single-Use Plastic Masks & Gloves)

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Note by the Secretariat

The development of the IMAP Info System has been finalized since July 2020 to enable Contracting Parties to start reporting data as of mid-2019 for selected (10) IMAP Common Indicators, and by laying down the basis for building a fully operational IMAP Info System by the end of the initial phase of IMAP, as provided for by Decision IG.22/7.

IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) – Marine Litter, and its Common Indicators 22 and 23 are among the 10 IMAP Common Indicators for which IMAP Info System is ready to receive relevant datasets from the Contracting Parties. To reach this point relevant Information Standards (i.e. Data Standards (DS) and Data Dictionaries (DS) have been prepared and agreed at regional level.

The Data Standards (DS) and Data Dictionaries (DD) for IMAP EO10 Common Indicators 22 and 23 have been approved by the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Marine Litter Monitoring (CorMon Marine Litter; 4-5 April 2019) and the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points (Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019); and were uploaded in the final version of IMAP Info System.

Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) are a set of information describing the content, format and structure of a database and relationship between the elements. DSs are prepared in a form of Excel spreadsheets in which every row indicates a field to be filled by the data providers, aligned with the current MED POL Database for the common cases. The DSs are accompanied by DDs provided in a form of a column next to each Data Standard or excel spreadsheet to guide the data provider. It is a crucial component of any relational database, invisible to most database users. Typically, only database administrators interact with the data dictionary. In the Data Standards, the mandatory data are represented in black and the non-mandatory data in red. The possibility to fill in also non-mandatory fields is given to allow the Contracting Parties that already have monitoring systems collecting a wider set of data to also report them as the additional data. It is at the discretion of the Contracting Parties to decide on reporting on non-mandatory data sets.

For IMAP EO10 Common Indicator 22, the DS-DD include among other elements the agreed MED POL beach marine litter item list which has been prepared in such a way to ensure coherence and synergies with the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Technical Group on Marine Litter (TGML).

The Secretariat and its MED POL programme taking into consideration the abrupt changes that the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to our lives and to our everyday behaviors', including the littering behaviors', and based on sound scientific evidence; is proposing the addition of two new COVID-19 related marine litter items (i.e. single-use plastic masks & gloves) into the MED POL beach marine litter item list.

This proposal is brought to the attention and kind consideration of the present Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring, along with a request to approve the revised list and to reflect those changes into the relevant DS-DD for IMAP EO10 CI22.

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List of Abbreviations / Acronyms

CI	Common Indicator
CORMON	Correspondence Group on Monitoring
DDs	Data Dictionaries
DSs	Data Standards
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EO	Ecological Objective
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria
INFO/RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea
MED QSR	Mediterranean Quality Status Report
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
PoW	Programme of Work
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control

1. Addendum to the Data Standards and Data Dictionaries for IMAP EO10 Common Indicator 22

1. The Data Standards (DS) and Data Dictionaries (DD) for IMAP EO10 Common Indicator 22 have been approved by the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Marine Litter Monitoring (CorMon Marine Litter; 4-5 April 2019) and the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points (Istanbul, Turkey, 29-31 May 2019); and were uploaded in the final version of IMAP Info System.

2. For Common Indicator 22 (beach marine litter), the proposed DDs reflect the elements included in the Metadata Reporting Templates to facilitate the population of corresponding data into the IMAP Info System. The relevant DDs are structured based on the approved “Beach ID Form” and “Beach Survey Form” providing information and metadata on the beach profile, link to the potential sources, recorded marine litter items, effect to biota etc.

3. A detailed MED POL beach marine litter item list has been prepared and agreed at regional level reflecting a number of different marine litter items mostly found on beaches. The said list has been prepared in such a way to ensure coherence and synergies with work of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Technical Group on Marine Litter (TGML).

4. Recently EU MSFD TGML has launched the review cycle for the “Joint List of Litter Categories for Marine Macrolitter Monitoring” (JRC121708), a list which has been prepared in close collaboration with EU Member States (MSs), the Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the European Environmental Agency (EEA). It provides a detailed and thorough list of marine litter types found in the marine and coastal environment of the European Regional Seas, and beyond. The Joint List builds upon the “Master List” published in 2013 by the EU MSFD TG ML¹. The Joint List is compatible with the Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 (EU 2017), laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardized methods for monitoring and assessment.

5. Taking into consideration the abrupt changes that the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to our lives and to our everyday behaviors’, including those for littering, and based on sound scientific evidence, the Secretariat (MED POL) is proposing the addition of two new COVID-19 related marine litter items (i.e. single-use plastic masks & gloves) into the MED POL beach marine litter item list. Those items are presented in the Table 1 hereunder in **black and bold format** under the coding **G253** and **G254**. This addition is also in line with the recent developments under the EU MSFD TGML and in particular with the under-finalization “Joint List of Litter Categories for Marine Macrolitter Monitoring”.

6. The other elements included in the officially approved DS-DD for IMAP EO10 Common Indicator 22, but also for Common Indicator 23, remain intact with no additional change.

¹ Galgani, F., Hanke, G., Werner, S., Oosterbaan, L., Nilsson, P., Fleet, D., Kinsey, S., RC, T., Van Franeker, J., Vlachogianni, T., Scoullou, M., Mira Veiga, J., Palatinus, A., Matiddi, M., Maes, T., Korpinen, S., Budziak, A., Leslie, H., Gago, J., Liebezeit, G., (2013). Guidance on Monitoring of Marine Litter in European Seas. European Commission, Joint Research Centre (2013). MSFD Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter (TSG-ML). EUR 26113; doi: 10.2788/99475.

Table 1: Data Dictionaries (Beach Litter Items) for IMAP Common Indicator 22

Value	Description	Macro-Category
G1	4/6-pack yokes, six-pack rings	Plastic/Polystyrene
G3	Shopping bags incl. pieces	Plastic/Polystyrene
G4	Small plastic bags (e.g. freezer bags incl. pieces)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G5	The part that remains from rip-off plastic bags	Plastic/Polystyrene
G7/G8	Drink bottles	Plastic/Polystyrene
G9	Cleaner bottles & containers	Plastic/Polystyrene
G10	Food containers incl. fast food containers	Plastic/Polystyrene
G11	Beach use related cosmetic bottles and containers (e.g. Sunblocks)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G13	Other bottles, drums and containers	Plastic/Polystyrene
G14	Engine oil bottles & containers <50 cm	Plastic/Polystyrene
G15	Engine oil bottles & containers >50 cm	Plastic/Polystyrene
G16	Jerry cans (square plastic containers with handle)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G17	Injection gun containers (including nozzles)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G18	Crates and containers / baskets (excluding fish boxes)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G19	Vehicle parts (made of artificial polymer or fiber glass)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G21/24	Plastic caps and lids (including rings from bottle caps/lids)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G26	Cigarette lighters	Plastic/Polystyrene
G27	Cigarette butts and filters	Plastic/Polystyrene
G28	Pens and pen lids	Plastic/Polystyrene
G29	Combs/hair brushes/sunglasses	Plastic/Polystyrene
G30/31	Crisps packets/sweets wrappers/Lolly sticks	Plastic/Polystyrene
G32	Toys and party poppers	Plastic/Polystyrene
G33	Cups and cup lids	Plastic/Polystyrene
G34	Cutlery, plates and trays	Plastic/Polystyrene
G35	Straws and stirrers	Plastic/Polystyrene
G36	Heavy duty sacks (e.g. fertilizer or animal feed sacks)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G37	Mesh bags (e.g. vegetables, fruits and other products) excluding aquaculture mesh bags	Plastic/Polystyrene
G40	Gloves (washing up)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G41	Gloves (industrial/professional rubber gloves)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G42	Crab/lobster pots and tops	Plastic/Polystyrene
G43	Tags (fishing and industry)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G44	Octopus pots	Plastic/Polystyrene
G45	Mesh bags (e.g. mussels nets, net sacks, oyster nets including pieces and plastic stoppers from mussel lines)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G46	Oyster trays (round from oyster cultures)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G47	Plastic sheeting from mussel culture (Tahitians)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G49	Rope (diameter more than 1cm)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G50	String and cord (diameter less than 1 cm)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G53	Nets and pieces of net < 50 cm	Plastic/Polystyrene
G54	Nets and pieces of net > 50 cm	Plastic/Polystyrene
G56	Tangled nets/cord	Plastic/Polystyrene
G57/G58	Fish boxes	Plastic/Polystyrene
G59	Fishing line (tangled and not tangled)	Plastic/Polystyrene

Value	Description	Macro-Category
G60	Light sticks (tubes with fluid) incl. Packaging	Plastic/Polystyrene
G62/G63	Buoys (e.g. marking fishing gear, shipping routes, mooring boats etc.)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G65	Buckets	Plastic/Polystyrene
G66	Strapping bands	Plastic/Polystyrene
G67	Sheets, industrial packaging, plastic sheeting (i.e. non-food packaging/transport packaging) excluding agriculture and greenhouse sheeting ²	Plastic/Polystyrene
G68	Fiberglass items and fragments	Plastic/Polystyrene
G69	Hard hats/Helmets	Plastic/Polystyrene
G70	Shotgun cartridges	Plastic/Polystyrene
G71	Shoes and sandals made of artificial polymeric material	Plastic/Polystyrene
G73	Foam sponge items (i.e. matrices, sponge, etc.)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G75	Plastic/polystyrene pieces 0 - 2.5 cm	Plastic/Polystyrene
G76	Plastic/polystyrene pieces 2.5 cm > < 50 cm	Plastic/Polystyrene
G77	Plastic/polystyrene pieces > 50 cm	Plastic/Polystyrene
G91	Biomass holder from sewage treatment plants and aquaculture	Plastic/Polystyrene
G253	Single-use plastic masks (e.g. used for protection from COVID-19)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G254	Single-use plastic gloves (e.g. used for protection from COVID-19)	Plastic/Polystyrene
G124	Other plastic/polystyrene items (identifiable) including fragments	Plastic/Polystyrene
	Please specify the items included in G124	Plastic/Polystyrene
G125	Balloons, balloon ribbons, strings, plastic valves and balloon sticks	Rubber
G127	Rubber boots	Rubber
G128	Tyres and belts	Rubber
G134	Other rubber pieces	Rubber
	Please specify the items included in G134	Rubber
G137	Clothing / rags (e.g. clothing, hats, towels)	Cloth
G138	Shoes and sandals (e.g. Leather, cloth)	Cloth
G141	Carpet & Furnishing	Cloth
G140	Sacking (hessian)	Cloth
G145	Other textiles (including pieces of cloths, rags, etc.)	Cloth
	Please specify the items included in G145	Cloth
G147	Paper bags	Paper/Cardboard
G148	Cardboard (boxes & fragments)	Paper/Cardboard
G150	Cartons/Tetrapack Milk	Paper/Cardboard
G151	Cartons/Tetrapack (non-milk)	Paper/Cardboard
G152	Cigarette packets (including transparent covering of the cigarette packet)	Paper/Cardboard
G153	Cups, food trays, food wrappers, drink containers	Paper/Cardboard
G154	Newspapers & magazines	Paper/Cardboard
G158	Other paper items (including non-recognizable fragments)	Paper/Cardboard

² Meeting requested to consider defining separate categories for greenhouse for agriculture and greenhouse sheeting; polystyrene and irrigation pipes

Value	Description	Macro-Category
	Please specify the items included in G158	Paper/Cardboard
G159	Corks	Paper/Cardboard
G160/161	Pallets / Processed timber	Processed/Worked Wood
G162	Crates and containers / baskets (not fish boxes)	Processed/Worked Wood
G163	Crab/lobster pots	Processed/Worked Wood
G164	Fish boxes	Processed/Worked Wood
G165	Ice-cream sticks, chip forks, chopsticks, toothpicks	Processed/Worked Wood
G166	Paint brushes	Processed/Worked Wood
G171	Other wood < 50 cm	Processed/Worked Wood
	<i>Please specify the items included in G171</i>	Processed/Worked Wood
G172	Other wood > 50 cm	Processed/Worked Wood
	Please specify the items included in G172	Processed/Worked Wood
G174	Aerosol/Spray cans industry	Metal
G175	Cans (beverage)	Metal
G176	Cans (food)	Metal
G177	Foil wrappers, aluminium foil	Metal
G178	Bottle caps, lids & pull tabs	Metal
G179	Disposable BBQ's	Metal
G180	Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	Metal
G182	Fishing related (weights, sinkers, lures, hooks)	Metal
G184	Lobster/crab pots	Metal
G186	Industrial scrap	Metal
G187	Drums and barrels (e.g. oil, chemicals)	Metal
G190	Paint tins	Metal
G191	Wire, wire mesh, barbed wire	Metal
G198	Other metal pieces < 50 cm	Metal
	<i>Please specify the items included in G198</i>	Metal
G199	Other metal pieces > 50 cm	Metal
	Please specify the items included in G199	Metal
G200	Bottles (including identifiable fragments)	Glass
G202	Light bulbs	Glass
G208a	Glass fragments >2.5cm	Glass
G210a	Other glass items	Glass
	<i>Please specify the items included in G210a</i>	Glass
G204	Construction material (brick, cement, pipes)	Ceramics
G207	Octopus pots	Ceramics
G208b	Ceramic fragments >2.5cm	Ceramics
G210b	Other ceramic/pottery items	Ceramics
	<i>Please specify the items included in G210b</i>	Ceramics
G95	Cotton bud sticks	Sanitary Waste
G96	Sanitary towels/panty liners/backing strips	Sanitary Waste
G97	Toilet fresheners	Sanitary Waste
G98	Diapers/nappies	Sanitary Waste
G133	Condoms (including packaging)	Sanitary Waste
G144	Tampons and tampon applicators	Sanitary Waste
G--	Other sanitary waste	Sanitary Waste

Value	Description	Macro-Category
	Please specify the other sanitary items	Sanitary Waste
G99	Syringes/needles	Medical Waste
G100	Medical/Pharmaceuticals containers/tubes	Medical Waste
G211	Other medical items (swabs, bandaging, adhesive plaster etc.)	Medical Waste
	<i>Please specify the items included in G211</i>	Medical Waste
G101	Dog faeces bag	Faeces
G213	Paraffin/Wax	Paraffin/Wax
Presence of pellets	Please say Y or N	
Presence of oil tars	Please say Y or N	
Number Items	Number of items in the category expressed as number of objects / 100m	