

**Workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter
in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions**
Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019

Conclusions and Recommendations

Representatives of G7 Countries, Regional Seas Conventions and Programmes to which G7 Countries are party, and a number of stakeholders from intergovernmental mechanisms, civil society, and industry, met in Metz, France, on 5 and 6 May 2019 on the occasion of the “*Workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions*”. The event was organized by the French G7 Presidency and the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan–Barcelona Convention Secretariat, with the generous support of the Government of Italy.

The workshop built upon the outcomes of the similar 2017 workshop organized in Rome, Italy, in the framework of the Italian 2017 G7 Presidency. That first edition had launched the review and discussion on strengthening the contribution of Regional Seas Programmes to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter and its priority actions through their marine litter activities. The main messages fed into the G7 2017 Bologna *Communiqué*.

The 2019 workshop advanced the discussions on the contribution of the work on marine litter at regional level to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, and the potential benefits from a stronger collaboration between the Regional Sea Conventions and Regional Fisheries Bodies. A summary of the conclusions and recommendations listed below was presented to the session of G7 Ministers of Environment in Metz by the Coordinator, UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, upon invitation by the Presidency.

Recommendations for coordinated action of Regional Seas Programmes as presented in the workshop main working document were reviewed and welcomed by the participants. In particular, it was agreed that:

- Encouraging progress in response to marine litter is reported by the Regional Seas, progress that is in line with the objectives and the priority actions of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.
- Marine litter impacts communities in an unequal way around the world. This is one of the reasons why, with their diversity and specificities, the Regional Seas Programmes are most appropriate mechanisms for the effective implementation of the G7 Action Plan and other global targets, as recognized by the G7 Ministers in their 2017 Bologna *Communiqué*.
- At the global level, Regional Seas Programmes are playing an important role in support of policy makers’ understanding of marine litter issues and their capacity to identify and implement the most appropriate responses.
- Concrete actions are required at different levels, including on the finalization of voluntary agreements with industries, changes and adoption of legislations, and effective implementation of existing legislations.
- Microplastics are being given increasing attention and actions focusing on prevention should be strengthened at regional level.

- It is evident that infrastructure development and investments are ever more urgent.
- Knowledge gaps remain wide and a developed and harmonized approach on monitoring and assessment of the marine and coastal environment is required not only on the presence and impact of marine litter, but also its socioeconomic impacts and consequences on human health and on biota.
- Harmonization and standardization of the monitoring protocols and relevant guidelines for data collection is required. The recently published “*Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean*” by GESAMP Working Group 40 (WG40), could be the basis for developing such an approach.
- Much progress has happened in terms of education, awareness and outreach. There is room for a better concerted narrative and homogeneous approach among the Regional Seas, although keeping in mind the need for tailoring it to the regional specificities.
- Given the contribution to marine litter by the fishery and aquaculture sector, especially in terms of impact on biodiversity, stronger collaboration between Regional Seas Programmes and fisheries bodies is being explored, in the context of wider global initiatives on fishery management.
- A proposed list of key areas of potential cooperation to be explored and promoted between Regional Sea Conventions and Programmes and regional fisheries bodies, structured under the main themes of *Policy and Governance, Science, Management and Awareness Raising*, was reviewed and welcomed.
- Priority should be given to a wider identification of accumulation hot spots and on the related risks for the marine environment, as well as continuing and expanding the removal of discarded fishing gears in an environmentally sound manner.
- The role of industry in developing and implementing responses, not only on management of waste, but also in terms of prevention (e.g. innovative technologies, eco-design, alternative materials), is crucial.
- The necessity of multi-stakeholder engagement, as referred to in the G7 Action Plan, along the whole value chain to effectively tackle marine litter was reaffirmed.
- The G7 process on marine litter has relevance for, and influence on other global and regional processes in the definition of marine litter responses. For this reason, the exchange of practices, analysis of progress, lessons learnt on marine litter, among G7 Countries, Regional Seas and other actors should become a regular feature of the annual G7 process.
- The UN Environment Global Programme of Action for Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and its Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), is the appropriate mechanism to ensure effective coordination and multi-regional participation, facilitate communication and disseminate the important progress that is happening at regional level.
- It was proposed to organize an international workshop with the participation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Programmes, to enhance capacities for the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Gear Marking Guidelines.
- An international “Glossary” of marine litter and plastic-associated terms and definitions should be developed supporting a common understanding among the different stakeholders being involved on issues related to marine litter. The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter, was proposed as the ideal platform to support this initiative.

Annexes:

Annex I: Background Document of the Workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter and Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions (Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019)

Annex II: List of Participants

Annex I

Background Document of the Workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter and Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions (Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019)

Workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter and Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions

Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019



G7 FRANCE



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

In the framework of the Italian 2017 G7 Presidency, a Workshop entitled “*Mainstreaming the Work of the Regional Seas Programmes towards the Better Implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the Achievement of Global Commitments on Marine Litter*” was held in Rome in 2017. The goal was to assess and strengthen the contribution of Regional Seas Programmes to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter. The Workshop was also attended by representatives of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations as a recognition of the role that fisheries may have in the generation of marine litter as well as of the initiatives that are being taken to prevent it. The results of the G7 workshop in Rome were reflected into the Communiqué of the G7 Bologna Environment Ministers’ Meeting (11-12 June 2017) with a clear reference to the role of the Regional Seas Programmes and their activities to address marine litter.

Building on the outcomes of the Rome Workshop, a second Workshop will be held in Metz, France, on 5-6 May 2019 in the context of the French 2019 G7 Presidency and with the support of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, with the main objective of discussing the continued contribution of the Regional Seas Programmes and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan. The Workshop also aims at exploring synergies between the G7 Action Plan and the developments at the global level such as the outcomes of the UNEA-4 and the Ad-hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics established by the UN Environment.

This document provides the background for the discussion in Metz, summarizing the progress made since 2017 in the framework of the Regional Seas Programmes in relation to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter. It also provides recommendations for common priorities and further coordination.



With the support of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
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1. Introduction

1. Marine litter, including plastics and microplastics, generated by land-based and sea-based including fisheries-related activities, represents one of the main pressures on the marine and coastal environment. In this context, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans have developed, or are in the process of developing, specific action plans and initiatives, some of which, such as the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, provide for legally binding prevention and reduction measures and specific timetables.

2. In 2015, the G7 signed in Schloss Elmau, Germany, an Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter. Since then, the implementation of the Action Plan was further discussed and reviewed by the G7 in 2016 in Toyama, the Ise-Shima Summit, and in Tokyo, Japan; in 2017 the implementation of the Plan was reviewed at the Ministerial Meeting in Bologna and at the Workshop on Marine Litter in Rome, Italy, and, finally, the G7 reviewed the progress made in 2018 at their Summit in Charlevoix, Canada.

3. Since the adoption of the Action Plan, G7 countries have reiterated the central and crucial role that the Regional Seas Programmes have in accelerating the implementation of the Action Plan at the national and regional levels.

4. As a result, the Workshop on Marine Litter held in Rome in 2017 in the framework of the Italian G7 Presidency, specifically reviewed the activities being carried out by those Regional Seas Programmes in which the G7 countries were involved (see Table), with a view at assessing and strengthening their contribution to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter. The Workshop was also attended by representatives of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations as a recognition of the role that fisheries may have in the generation of marine litter as well as of the initiatives that are being taken to prevent it.

5. The results of the G7 workshop in Rome were reflected into the Communiqué of the G7 Bologna Environment Ministers' Meeting (11-12 June 2017) with a clear reference to the further implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter and a call for strengthening the coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of existing international efforts, in

particular through the Regional Seas Programmes' activities to address marine litter.

6. Building on the outcomes of the Rome Workshop, a second Workshop is held in Metz, France, on 5-6 May 2019, with the main objective of defining the continued contribution of the Regional Seas Programmes and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in a coordinated manner and identifying concrete activities to be jointly implemented. The Workshop also aims at exploring synergies between the G7 Action Plan and the developments at the global level such as the outcomes of the UNEA-4 and the Ad-hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics established by the UN Environment.

7. The main scope of the present document as a contribution to the Workshop is as follows: to review the developments made since 2017 in the framework of the Regional Seas Programmes in relation to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter and provide recommendations for common priorities and further coordination; to review the related developments at the global level; to discuss the role that the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations may have in marine litter generation and prevention; to identify key areas of cooperation between Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations; to identify priority areas for common action and initiatives.

Table: Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans having G7 countries as their Contracting Parties/members

Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans	Canada	France	Germany	Italy	Japan	UK	USA
Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) / Cartagena Convention		✓				✓	✓
Nairobi Convention (Western Indian Ocean Region)		✓					
Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) / Barcelona Convention		✓		✓			
Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP)					✓		
Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) / SPREP Convention		✓				✓	✓
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME)	✓						✓
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) / CAMLR Convention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) / Helsinki Convention			✓				
OSPAR Commission / OSPAR Convention		✓	✓			✓	

2. The G7 Action Plan and other global and regional initiatives

8. The G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, adopted in 2015, includes overall principles as well as priority actions and recognizes the need to use existing platforms and tools to avoid duplications and take advantage of progress made in other regional and global frameworks. In view of the active involvement of the G7 countries in the activities of the Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Conventions, such Programmes were recognized as most suitable to mainstream and thus accelerate the implementation of the Action Plan. However, since the launching of the Action Plan, the issue of marine litter has also been the focus of several important global initiatives which have been used by the G7, as appropriate, as a basis for action or as a source of inspiration.

9. In this context, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular its Goal 14 have been very relevant to the work of the G7 on marine litter. The 2017 Bologna Ministerial Meeting of the G7 specifically mentioned the will of the countries to fully and timely implement the 2030 Agenda and in particular its Goal 14 related directly and indirectly to marine litter. The G7 recognized that moving towards a more resource efficient and circular economic model, including efficient resource use and sustainable materials and waste management systems, is the most effective way to address marine litter.

10. Furthermore, the G7 countries, in their 2018 Meeting in Charlevoix, Canada, while addressing the issue of ocean plastic waste and marine litter, committed to move towards a more resource-efficient and sustainable approach for the management of marine litter, in particular by avoiding unnecessary use of plastic, prevent waste, and by ensuring that plastics are designed in such a way to strengthen recovery schemes, reuse, recycling and end-of-life management to

prevent waste through various policy measures.

11. As a follow up to the third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA-3), an Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics was established and held its first meeting in Nairobi on 29-31 May 2018. The scope of this meeting was to further examine the barriers to, and propose options for combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially from land-based sources. Among others, the Group highlighted the importance of dialoguing with international and regional organizations and of learning more about the challenges in addressing marine litter under the respective instruments and activities. More in particular, a closer dialogue with the Regional Seas Programmes may increase inter-regional synergies as a contribution to implement Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Target 14. During the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics (Geneva, Switzerland, 3-7 December 2018), the need to improve coordination at the regional level, notably with existing international instruments such as regional seas programmes, regional fisheries bodies and river-basin committees, was stressed.

12. Subsequently, the fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA-4, Nairobi, 11-15 March 2019) broadly addressed the issue of marine litter and microplastics. In particular, while dealing with the protection of the marine environment from land-based pollution, a special mention was made to the environmental threats deriving from marine litter and microplastics with a view at supporting the 2030 Agenda as a framework for sustainable development. The fourth Session also addressed the issue of the

pollution deriving from the use of single-use plastic products and invited member states to take a number of measures to prevent and eliminate it. In the final Declaration the Ministers recognized the damage to the ecosystem caused by the unsustainable use and disposal of plastic products and agreed to significantly reduce single-use plastic products by 2030 and to work with the private sector to find affordable and environmentally friendly alternatives.

13. Following the launch of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) in Rio in 2012, a new framework document was prepared in 2018 under the overall coordination of the GPA of the UN Environment. The GPML, in addition to acting as an international and coordinating mechanism that brings together stakeholders to collaborate in finding solutions to the problem of marine litter and microplastics, also identifies gaps and emerging issues and creates the awareness required for behavioural changes. The GPML, while significantly contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aims to facilitate information sharing and collaboration through regular webinars and other activities. To enhance the capacity of stakeholders, a series of workshops and training courses was organized and on-the-ground activities were supported through demonstration projects. Among others, capacity building activities included a microplastics analysis workshop for the South-East Pacific and the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on marine litter which consisted of a leadership track and a track for experts and practitioners. Following the first MOOC held in 2015, two new courses were launched in 2017 and recently in April 2019.

14. At regional level, the Fifth European Regional Seas Coordination Meeting on the Progress Achieved in the Implementation of the Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter was held in Vrachati, Greece, on 4-5 July 2018. The Meeting was attended by all European Regional Seas Programmes, the European Commission and UN Environment. Among other, the Meeting identified common issues, opportunities and challenges including the relevance of the regional

dimension and the high level of engagement on marine litter issues. The Meeting also stressed the need to identify areas of further cooperation with the relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and to agree on a common approach to be followed by all European Regional Seas.

15. At the Mediterranean level, the review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management has been initiated, with the involvement of Governments. In particular, an initial appraisal has been made of the implementation of the concrete measures agreed in the Regional Plan with a view at identifying progress and barriers. While the implementation of the Plan was found overall satisfactory, the on-going consultations have identified a number of challenges to be taken into account in the immediate future. At the most recent meeting with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and some stakeholders in Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019, it was agreed that further efforts were required with regards to the establishment of sustainable procurement policies and voluntary agreements; the development of national policies for priority single-use marine litter items; the reduction of the contribution of the fisheries sector on marine litter; the application of the voluntary guidelines for marking fishing gear.

3. Regional Seas initiatives

16. The detailed review of the main actions implemented since 2017 by the Regional Seas Programmes in line with the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter is contained in Annex II to this document. This chapter contains an overall analysis of the contribution of the Regional Seas Programmes to the implementation of the G7 Action Plan as well as main conclusions and recommendations.

3.1 To address land-based Sources

17. The improvement of waste management systems has been given priority in all regions. In particular, important progress was noted in the Mediterranean region where updated National Action Plans included important measures related to the collection of solid waste, construction of municipal landfills as well as adoption of reduction, recycling, recovery and re-use measures, regulation and reduction of fraction of plastics, and closure of illegal solid waste dumps. In addition, eight Mediterranean countries have included marine litter-related provisions in their national laws and policies. In other regions the work concentrated mainly on studies, research and the collection and sharing of information among countries (e.g. in the HELCOM and the Caribbean regions).

18. The use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) to develop sustainable and cost effective solutions to reduce and prevent sewage and storm water related to waste entering the marine environment was further developed.

19. The removal of microplastics from storm water and sewage was also tackled through studies, research and specific projects (i.e. in the HELCOM region).

20. Work was carried out on the promotion of instruments and incentives to reduce the use and disposal of single-use items and the application of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) through studies and the implementation of pilot projects. Important progress was noted in some regions (e.g. in the Mediterranean

region) where the adoption of national regulatory frameworks were assessed and assistance was given to several countries. In most regions, priority was given to capacity building, the implementation of specific pilot projects and the exchange of information between countries.

21. Progress were made towards the banning of microplastics as components of personal care and cosmetics products through dialogue as well as voluntary agreements with the related industries. In addition, studies were made to assess what products and processes contribute to the input of microplastics to the sea as well as an evaluation of existing related legislations.

22. An overview was produced on the most significant sources of expanded polystyrene (EPS) and extruded polystyrene (XPS) ending into the marine environment with recommendations for voluntary agreements with the industries for changes in product design and applying best practices when handling EPS.

23. ***Progress has been achieved with reference to the reduction of marine litter from land-based sources (i.e. development of legal instruments, studies, research, capacity building, pilot projects). However, more concrete actions are required at different levels (finalization of voluntary agreements with industries, changes and adoption of legislations, implementation of existing legislations) in order to effectively improve the current situation.***

3.2 Removal Actions

24. Some progress was made in the European regions on the identification of accumulation areas and the establishment of an exchange platform on experiences in marine litter removal. Work on the identification of hot-spot areas as well as on risk assessment has been carried out in several regions in order to identify where accumulation poses a threat (EU-funded MARELITT Baltic and Marine Litter MED; INTERREG-Atlantic CleanAtlantic project).

25. Work is ongoing in the Mediterranean to implement “Fishing-for-litter” and “Adopt-a-beach” pilot projects as a mechanism to remove existing marine litter from the marine and coastal environment. Fishing-for-litter guidelines are in place in the Mediterranean since 2016, approved by the Mediterranean Countries, and an advanced version of the Adopt-a-beach guidelines is already available and is expected to be finalized by 2019. More than 20 Adopt-a-beach pilots are currently implemented in the Mediterranean in nine different non-EU countries. Six national capacity building workshops were held since 2018 in the Mediterranean where technical support and guidance has been provided towards the effective implementation of the Fishing-for-litter and Adopt-a-beach guidelines in a coordinated and coherent manner. Similar work was carried out in other European regions on the removal of discarded fishing nets.

26. **Some progress was made on removal actions. Priority should be given to a wider identification of accumulation hot spots and on the related risks for the marine environment. Specific reduction targets for beach marine litter should be adopted and implemented. Work should continue and be expanded on the removal of discarded fishing gears. Some progress was noted on the establishment of an exchange platform experiences in marine litter removal.**

3.3 To Address Sea-Based Sources

27. Seven pilot projects are being implemented and other five are going to be launched in the Mediterranean in the framework of the EU-funded “Marine litter MED” Project for the provision of port reception facilities and delivery of ship-generated waste in one marina per target country and for the determination of charges for the use of reception facilities or the application of no-special-fees systems. To support the implementation of the pilot projects, Operational Guidelines on the Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes in the Mediterranean and a Guidance Document to Determine the Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities or, when applicable, Application

of No-Special-Fee System in the Mediterranean, have been developed and are being reviewed by countries for final approval.

28. Work was carried out in European regions on the analysis of penalties and fines for waste disposal offences at sea. In addition, concerning the implementation of ISO Standards in relation to port reception facilities, Guidelines were prepared and are in use. The revised version of the Directive on Port Reception Facilities for the delivery of waste from ships was adopted by the Council of the European Union and is expected to entry into force soon.

29. Progress was made in the Mediterranean in cooperation with GFCM on the preparation of Guidelines on the marking of fishing gears and on the launching of pilot projects. Reports on best practices for waste management within the fishing sector are being prepared in the HELCOM and OSPAR regions. A questionnaire was prepared on waste characterization from aquaculture and fisheries to gain a better knowledge on the potential environmental impacts.

30. **Significant progress was noted in the European regions where the establishment and improvements of port reception facilities are further progressing. More work is needed to enhance cooperation with Fisheries Organizations and fishing industry for the implementation of specific initiatives such as “fishing gear marking”, the use of environmentally neutral fish nets, pots and traps, best practice application in waste management onboard and at ports, operational losses/nets cuttings, deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and extended producer responsibility.**

3.4 Education, Research and Outreach

31. Work continued in all regions with information campaigns, training and beach clean-up initiatives.

32. Marine litter side events have been organized at many national, regional and global events. The general level of awareness and information on marine litter, and especially on plastic in marine and coastal environment, is rapidly

growing, although in the presence of wide knowledge gaps on incidence and impact of marine litter. The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter, the third edition of which is being launched in April 2019, is addressing, amongst others, sea-based sources.

33. A data base on good practice examples on marine litter measures was prepared and distributed in the OSPAR region.

34. In the OSPAR region, a background document of sustainable fishing education at fishing academies was also prepared and adopted.

35. ***Activities continued to be implemented in all regions. Efforts should be made to strengthen cooperation with International, national and local fishing organization to sensitize all sea users and especially fishermen, on the issue of marine litter.***

4. Regional Seas Conventions and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations: key areas of potential cooperation and possible coordinated actions

36. Fishing gear poses a threat to the marine environment with significant implications on marine biodiversity, as well as with socio-economic implications, not only when actively fishing but most importantly when it is abandoned, lost or discarded in the marine environment. In the European Seas, the so called Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) accounts for about a third of marine litter found, or over 11,000 tons per year and even more, depending on the region. Although variable region by region, it is estimated that 20 per cent of gear is lost at sea due to accidents, heavy weather, gear conflicts and entanglements and intentional abandonment. The material from which the fishing gear is constructed of, is designed to be durable in the marine environment and thus takes many years to degrade (e.g. monofilament fishing lines are estimated to take up to 600 years to degrade). The average density of plastic appears to increase in all regional seas; in the Mediterranean for example is now estimated to be comparable to that in open oceans gyres as plastic debris represent the 87,7 per cent of the floating marine litter. Significant amounts of marine litter, of which many ALDFG, are lying on the seafloor which may reach up to densities of 100,000 items/km². Finally, there is growing evidence that microplastics are increasingly found ingested in fish and invertebrates, many of them deriving from ALDFG.

37. To address the issue of marine litter stemming from fisheries activities, several measures have been taken in international and regional organizations and fora. Specific actions have been

outlined in Regional/Action Plans on Marine Litter, through resolutions, adoption of Guidelines or other instruments, implementation of projects as well as assessment and monitoring activities. Specific work was initiated in a number of regions by launching more intensive cooperation with the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, in particular in the Mediterranean (with GFCM) and the Caribbean (with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, GCFI) to review data and information and to develop strategies and prioritize actions. Interest to support action towards the prevention and reduction of marine litter from fishing activities has been expressed by several Fisheries Management Organizations such as the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) in the Framework of the Montevideo Focal Points Meeting in June 2018; the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) through a Marine Debris Programme specific for fisheries debris items ongoing since 1989; the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) through the Regional Action Plan for the Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in cooperation with OSPAR; and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) through the Pacific Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter in cooperation with SPREP.

38. SDG 14 also provides a clear goal to significantly reduce marine pollution by 2025 which will contribute, among other, to achieving sustainable fisheries. However, the continued accumulation of litter in all regional seas, the lack of best

practice incentive programmes for fishermen, the poor enforcement mechanisms, the behavioral patterns by society and finally the projected increase by up to 33 per cent of global plastic production, clearly make the call for more intensive cooperation and action more urgent.

39. As a result, there is a need to harmonize and coordinate efforts and approaches between Regional Sea Programmes and RFMOs and achieve common objectives, such as:

- a) To reduce the generation of marine litter coming from fisheries activities including aquaculture;
- b) To increase awareness of the issue of marine litter from fishing activities with the related industry;
- c) To outline and share options and best practices on how the waste stream is handled in ports and on board to achieve environmental sound retrieval operations and strengthen Fishing-for-Litter initiatives.

40. In view of the above, from the prospective of Regional Seas Programmes a number of coordinated initiatives between Regional Seas and RFMOs are therefore suggested with a view at jointly implementing actions aiming at a reduction, and ultimately elimination of, the generation of marine litter from fisheries.

1. Policy and Governance

- Promote the development of national regulatory frameworks to further enhance waste management for marine litter and to promote relevant reduction and prevention measures covering fisheries (i.e. ALDFG) and aquaculture issues;
- Establish or further develop cooperation platforms/networks between relevant stakeholders and initiatives such as the Global Ghost Gear initiative and sector organizations;

- Further support reporting of MARPOL Annex V and enhance education programmes for ship crews with regards to the existing legal obligations;
- Streamline the marine litter issue and fisheries into the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative;
- Promote Ghost Gear free fishing certification;
- Enhance inspection and control systems of fishing and aquaculture activities;
- Promote the establishment of formal way of cooperation between Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, e.g. through the signature or further updating of MOUs to further address marine litter issues.

2. Science

- Collect available information and make further research on the most effective and appropriate policies and establish shared standardized protocols for marine litter sampling procedures, detection, retrieval and disposal;
- Continue investigating the impact of marine litter, especially for the fisheries-related marine litter items, on all trophic levels of marine biota on a similar temporal and spatial scale (e.g. ingestion, bio-accumulation and possible transfer through the food web);
- Promote studies on new technologies and material to be applied in the development of fishing gear;
- Promote the organization of ad-hoc Workshops and training courses on prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse of marine litter deriving from fisheries activities;
- Set up monitoring and assessment programmes for

- ALDFG and other fisheries related marine litter including cleaning of ALDFG hot spots;
 - Make the results of monitoring and assessment of the impact of marine litter available to national fisheries assessment and management agencies;
 - Pool data from different ghost gear reporting initiatives and make it available to scientists, the industry and policy makers.
- 3. Management**
- Prevent gear loss through gear marking, EPR schemes, etc., and the development of relevant guidelines or the promotion of existing ones;
 - Establish or strengthen the FFL concept;
 - Promote and share best practice management of fishing gears at all stages of fishing gear life cycle, i.e. from manufacture to disposal and potential re-use and recycle or even circular economy possibilities;
 - Ensure and improve reception facilities (e.g. through the application of No-Special-Fee systems) and proper waste collection solutions in ports and marinas and in particular in smaller fishing ports for the effective collection of fishing gears and other marine litter items retrieved from the sea;
 - Work with local fishermen in order to identify marine litter hot spots/accumulation areas where retrieval operations should be focused and propose environmentally sound retrieval operations;
 - Involve fishermen in all aspects of management of the issue of marine litter (from data collection to retrieval, disposal, etc.);
- Implement projects and pilot activities which could include funding and/or different kind of incentives.
 - Enhance cooperation with plastic and recycling industry towards establishing and improving related management schemes.
- 4. Awareness raising**
- Enhance collaboration with fishermen and fishing communities for all awareness raising initiatives;
 - Inform fishing communities about the environmental and socio-economic costs of marine litter and ALDFG and the impact to the sector itself;
 - Intensify consumer awareness campaigns, promoting a sustainable lifestyle focusing on litter prevention and reduction as well as avoidance of single-use plastic items;
 - Ensure involvement of local coastal authorities to facilitate specific awareness raising programmes and activities for different stakeholders;
 - Spread knowledge regarding eco-efficient waste management systems and practices;
 - Provide incentives to fishermen for environmentally friendly practices;
 - Support a change of mindset to consider the used fishing gears as a potential source of income rather than waste.

Annex I. G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter

Overarching Principles

The G7 countries

- Commit to the improvement of countries' systems as a key goal of the action plan, to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter, including the below listed priority actions.
- Recognize that support through international development assistance and investments are important to combat marine litter and encourage both.
- Support development and implementation of national or regional action plans to reduce waste entering inland and coastal waters and ultimately becoming marine litter, as well as to remove existing waste.
- Share best practices, especially with developing countries, and encourage a similar call to action in other international fora.
- Recognize that, where available, the use of existing platforms and tools for cooperation will reduce duplication and take advantage of progress made (e.g. the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans) and therefore support their use.
- Promote individual and corporate behavior change through public awareness and education to address marine litter.
- Recognize that prevention is key to long-term success in addressing and combating marine litter and that industries and consumers have an important role to play in reducing waste.
- Recognize that the need for removal actions is important, due to the vast amounts of litter already in the marine environment.
- Support the use of a broad range of policy toolkits and available instruments, including economic incentives, market-based instruments, and public private partnerships to support implementation of actions to effectively combat marine litter.

Priority Actions to Address Land-Based Sources

- Improving countries' systems for waste management, reducing waste generation, and encouraging reuse and recycling;
- Incorporating waste management activities into international development assistance and investments and supporting the implementation of pilot projects where appropriate;
- Investigating sustainable and cost-effective solutions to reduce and prevent sewage and storm water related waste, including micro plastics entering the marine environment;
- Promoting relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the use of disposable single-use and other items, which impact the marine environment;
- Encouraging industry to develop sustainable packaging and remove ingredients from products to gain environmental benefits, such as by a voluntary phase-out of microbeads;
- Promoting best practices along the whole plastics manufacturing, and value chain from production to transport, e.g. aiming for zero pellet loss;

Priority Removal Actions

- Identifying accumulation areas of marine litter and establishing an exchange platform on experiences in marine litter removal on beaches, riverbanks, seafloor, the water column and sea surface areas, ports and inland waterways;
- Supporting the removal of litter where it poses a threat to sensitive marine ecosystems, in an environmentally sound way, taking into account the socioeconomic aspects including cost effectiveness, thereby using best available techniques (BAT) and best Environmental practice (BEP) and engaging partners where possible;
- Assessing and analyzing removal data to support and target outreach efforts, potential policy options, and other means of preventing litter;

Priority Actions to Address Sea-based Sources

- Working to maximize the amount of waste delivered to port reception facilities and disposed of properly in accordance with Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL);
- Identifying the options to address key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture which could contribute to marine litter, and implement pilot projects where appropriate (including deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and end-of-life recovery) and take into account the expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

Priority Action on Education, Research and Outreach

- Promoting outreach and education activities leading to individual behavior change that can reduce the amount of litter entering the environment, internal waters and the seas;
- Supporting the initiation of a harmonized global marine litter monitoring effort and the standardization of methods, data and evaluation;
- Supporting the effort of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations to help understand the sources, pathways and impacts of marine litter; and Supporting and calling for additional research initiatives to address marine litter.

Annex II. Comparative table: G7 priority actions and related activities of Regional Seas Programmes

The table lists the priority actions agreed upon by the G7 countries, grouped as “*Land-based sources of marine litter*”, “*Removal*”, “*Sea-based sources*” and “*Education, research and outreach*”, and shows the most relevant corresponding activities undertaken by the Regional Seas Programmes.

In reading the table, the following should be noted:

- 1) UN Environment/MAP: The Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean was adopted in 2013 (Decision IG.21/7) and became legally binding on 8 July 2014. The references in parenthesis included after each activity refer to the corresponding Article of the Regional Plan;
- 2) HELCOM: The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the Baltic area was adopted in 2015. The references in parenthesis included after each activity refer to the corresponding Action of the Plan;
- 3) OSPAR: The Marine Litter Regional Action Plan for the North-East Atlantic area was adopted in 2014. The references in parenthesis included after each activity refer to the corresponding Action of the Plan;
- 4) The Caribbean: The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management (RAPMali) for the wider Caribbean region was first adopted in 2010 and a new revised version was prepared and adopted in 2014 to reflect emerging issues such as microplastics. The references in parenthesis included after each activity refer to the corresponding Action of the Plan;
- 5) SPREP: The Pacific Regional Environment Programme does not have an Action Plan for marine litter. The activities listed in the table refer to marine litter-related actions included in the Pacific Regional Integrated Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy finalized in 2015;
- 6) NOWPAP: The Northwest Pacific Regional Programme adopted a Regional Plan on Marine Litter in 2008. The references in parenthesis included after each activity refer to the corresponding Action of the Plan.

To address Land-based sources

G7 MLAP	Improving countries' systems for waste management, reducing waste generation, and encouraging reuse and recycling;
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	<p>Summary: The need to improve waste management systems to reduce the amount of marine litter seems to be given high priority in all Regions. Prevention, re-use and recycling are intended to be widely applied in urban waste management but also in industry, shipping and tourism. In general terms, the priority action set by the G7 countries is fully in line with the Regional Seas prospected and implemented actions.</p>
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UNEP/MAP	<p>Apply urban and solid waste management on reduction at source through prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, energy recovery and environmental sound disposal (Art.9).</p> <p>The updated National Action Plans and Programmes of Measures of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention already include a number of measures at country level related to the collection of solid waste, construction of municipal landfills, adoption of waste reduction, sorting, recycling, recovery and reuse measures, regulation and reduction of fraction of plastics, and closure of illegal solid waste dumps. Pilot projects are implemented by UN Environment/MAP and its Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) to support Contracting Parties in enhancing their capacities related to prevention and recycling of marine litter. Significant progress can be reported at regional level with 8 countries having included relevant provisions in their national laws and policies (i.e. SwitchMed beneficiaries: national SCP plans, including waste management).</p>
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HELCOM	<p>Cooperate on the establishment and/or further development of deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminum) in the HELCOM Contracting Parties in accordance with national law as appropriate. Investigate and strive for bilateral and multilateral solutions between the countries for establishment of such systems in relation to passenger ships (RL11)</p> <p>A Questionnaire on national activities was developed by EE (2016): Currently functioning deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminum) are in place in several countries.</p> <p>Estonia and Latvia are jointly working on the development of a joint packaging deposit system (document 3-7 of PRESSURE 10-2019). The issue is to be kept in the PRESSURE Agenda</p> <p>Two documents have been prepared: a) Deposit-based return system for beverage in Finland; b) Lithuanian law on packaging and packaging waste.</p>
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OSPAR	<p>RAP Actions 39 (Highlight those waste prevention and management practices that impact significantly on marine litter; Engage with the industry and other appropriate authorities to develop BEP) and Action 40 (Share best practices on waste management, e.g. landfill bans of high caloric wastes (especially for plastics) are treated together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A questionnaire was circulated to Contracting Parties to gain a comprehensive overview of existing waste management practices and associated marine litter prevention strategies.- Ongoing works towards the development of best practice guidelines and/or background document on waste prevention and management practices. A supporting workshop is envisaged for the second half of 2019 <p>Encourage the recyclability of plastic products (RAP71).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- More than 80 per cent of OSPAR Contracting Parties have implemented measures or have activities ongoing to encourage the recyclability of plastic products.
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Exchange experience on best practices to prevent litter entering into water system (RAP41).

- A questionnaire was prepared and circulated and resulted in an "Inventory of knowledge and actions concerning riverine litter relevant to the OSPAR area". The report focused on beach litter monitoring and the needed cooperation between countries.
- A work session on "Riverine and Marine Litter" was organized in June 2017. The session enabled a fruitful exchange between the marine and the riverine litter communities.
- A further expert workshop on riverine and marine litter will be held in Paris on 4-5 June 2019. The workshop will discuss monitoring methods relative to the input of riverine litter into the sea.

CEP	<p>Mobilize resources for improving the capacity for enforcement of appropriate integrated waste management practices (Action 4.1.7).</p> <p>Ensure that debris and ecosystem health issues are integrated into emergency management plans and procedures (Action 4.1.5).</p> <p>Develop and implement a model of a national management plan for marine litter (Action 4.2.1).</p> <p>Develop and promote activities for waste minimization, including reuse and recycling (Action 4.5.3).</p> <p>Establish a clearinghouse of information on effective strategies and practices for enforcement of waste management practices (Action 4.1.6).</p> <p>Identify needs, barriers and gaps for solid waste management including identifying best use of technology to enable and support marine litter initiatives and remove counterproductive technology; conducting risk assessments; identifying alternatives to existing products and technologies and supporting efforts to reduce excess and/or unnecessary consumer product packaging.</p>
SPREP	<p>The 2017-2026 SPREP Strategic Plan contains a plan to strengthen national, regional and international mechanisms for waste management including marine plastic litter and other marine debris, and improve management of recyclable items. The Integrated Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025 is mirrored through national waste and pollution strategies.</p>
NOWPAP	<p>Action 1.2 of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Take appropriate measures to reduce the generation of solid wastes on land that can become marine litter.- Establish and ensure the proper operations of solid waste management facilities on shore (reception and disposal of waste from all sources).- Enhance and promote land-based waste management, including the proper management by municipalities of landfills, sewage treatment facilities and the proper care of household waste.

G7 MLAP Investigating sustainable and cost-effective solutions to reduce and prevent sewage and storm water related waste, including micro plastics entering the marine environment

Summary: The need to find sustainable and cost-effective solutions for a significant reduction of waste from sewage and storm water is clearly highlighted in several Regions, including the use of BAT and BEP in industries. More attention was given in preventing microplastic waste in the marine environment in some regions with specific activities and initiatives. This area of work needs to be developed further in all regions in order to fulfill the objective of the G7 countries.

UNEP/MAP Take necessary measures to establish an appropriate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants and waste management systems to prevent runoff and riverine inputs of litter (Art.9).

The updated National Action Plans of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, have already take into account this provision for building and extending the sewage networks, as well as build/expand/upgrade municipal wastewater treatment plants, to fully take into consideration minimized input of marine litter entering the marine environment. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have agreed to move ahead with the development of the following, new regional plans: i) Regional Plan on Municipal Wastewater Treatment; ii) Regional Plan for Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plants; and iii) Regional Plan on Sewage Sludge Management. The three new Regional Plans will be further reviewed by the Meeting of the MED POL National Focal Points in May 2019.

HELCOM Improvement of storm water management in order to prevent litter, including microlitter, to enter the marine environment from heavy weather events (RL4).

The following projects were completed:

- Blastic project – plastic pathways from land to sea, funded by the Central Baltic Programme (2016-2018) (<https://www.blastic.eu/>); and
- Baltic Flows (finished project, <http://www.balticflows.eu/>).
- Project IWater (<http://www.integratedstormwater.eu/>) has just started and is run by Union of Baltic Cities.

The following work is ongoing:

“FanPLESStic-sea project – Initiative to remove microplastics before they enter the sea” (Jan. 2019-June 2020). HELCOM is one of the ten partners. The project will contribute to actions RL 4, 6 and 7 of the Action Plan with the following outputs:

- a) A model to map, understand and visualize microplastics pathways that will be applied to the partners’ cities and/or regions;
- b) Piloting new technology i) for filtering out microplastics; ii) for sustainable drainage solutions as means to remove microplastics; and iii) to remove microplastics from stormwater;
- c) Defining innovative governance frameworks and engaging a large number of players for the implementation of coordinated and cost-efficient measures resulting in locally-adapted investment proposals/plans for each partner’s region; and
- d) Dissemination of project results, including reports on barriers and ways forward, to increase institutional capacity on up-stream and problem-targeted methods to remove microplastics.

The possible revision of HELCOM Recommendation on the reduction of discharges from urban areas by the proper management of storm water systems (Rec. 25) will be discussed at the 2019 Workshop on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

The following documents have been made available:

- a) Swedish EPA Report on the analysis of the state of knowledge and challenges on storm water; and
- b) Guidance on concrete ways to reduce microplastics input from municipal storm water and waste water discharges (by CCB).

Compilation of available techniques as well as research and develop additional techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment (RL7).

Additional documentation available:

- a) Supported by Danish EPA: i) Evaluating and developing various technologies able to retain microplastics from wastewater; ii) Partnership focusing on microplastic pollution in wastewater; iii) Guide on how to handle wastewater from artificial football pitches containing car tyre rubber granulates; iv) Project on developing and testing a filter technology to retain microplastics; v) Project on developing a technology to retain microrubber from car tyres.
- b) Lithuanian waste water management regulation
- c) Swedish sources and pathways for microplastics to the marine environment – A review of existing data;
- d) A Report by Sweden to assess available techniques for advanced wastewater treatment for separation and removal of pharmaceutical residues and other hazardous substances.

OSPAR	<p>Investigate and promote with the appropriate industries the use of BAT and BEP to develop sustainable and cost effective solution to reduce and prevent sewage and storm water related waste entering the marine environment (RAP42).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A compilation of current and ongoing finished projects on all aspects of Action 42 has been prepared.- A document on BAT/BEP in urban wastewater treatment systems, focusing on storm water-related litter, in particular microplastics, has been prepared and will soon be published.- An information-sharing meeting with the European Commission and other interested parties will be organized in 2019 on the minimization of the discharge of litter including microplastics in the marine environment.
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CEP	<p>Improve coordination and understanding of monitoring objectives and surveys. Review and analyze existing national studies on the impact of plastics and microplastics in the marine environment.</p>
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SPREP

NOWPAP	<p>Action 1.5. Research Activities of the RAP MALI: Develop technologies to prevent marine litter input from land-based sources.</p> <p>Ongoing research on microplastics content on the beaches and with river discharge along the Northwest Pacific coast of the Russian Federation.</p>
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G7 MLAP Promoting relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the use of disposable single use and other items, which impact the marine environment

Summary: The reduction of the use of disposable single-use items is addressed almost everywhere in the regions through voluntary agreements, the use of fiscal and economic incentives and possible ban of import of specific plastic items. The activities implemented or planned in the Regions fully comply with the related objective and priority action of the G7 countries.

UNEP/MAP Explore and implement prevention measures related to voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets for the reduction of plastic bags consumption including fiscal and economic instruments (Art.9).

Explore and implement measures for the deposit, return and restoration of beverage packaging and expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector (Art.9).

The enhancement of the regulatory framework on the non- single use of plastic bags and the promotion of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), have been an outmost priority of UN Environment/MAP and its Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC). The national regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags has been assessed in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Algeria, in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, also aiming to promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for other single-use products. Following the assessment results, technical assistance is provided to the countries with the aim to minimize the use of single use items (i.e. plastic packaging in Morocco and Algeria, and single-use plastic bags in Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon). Furthermore, in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, a "Reference document" has been prepared outlining the state of the art of the legal framework regulating the production/consumption of single use plastic bags in each of the countries as well as case studies of voluntary and regulatory measures to reduce the use and production of single-use plastic bags.

In the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) support is currently provided to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro with regard to the enhancement of the regulatory framework to promote non-single use plastics (single-use plastic bags and PET bottles); improve the collection and recycling of plastic PET bottles; as well as enhance local and national capacities and raise awareness of stakeholders. Within the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, a number of activities have been assigned to SCP/RAC with the objective of improving the policy framework and engaging with the food and beverage industry in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro for tackling plastics packaging value chains in a circular economy. This set of activities aims at contributing to the identification and prioritization of preventive measures that tackle plastic packaging in the food and beverage industry, by improving the relevant policy framework and strengthening the engagement of businesses and business support organizations.

Since February 2016 (COP 19), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have adopted the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan for the Mediterranean, which constitutes a forward-looking framework to move towards a circular economy in the region. Within the EU-funded SwitchMed project, national SCP Action Plans have been elaborated in the participating countries. Furthermore, the project has contributed through different components to support industry towards more sustainable patterns (including plastic value chain industry), as well as to support green entrepreneurs in the region through capacity building, access to finance and

markets. An important amount of these green businesses deals with plastic waste.

The final version of the regional guidelines on single-use plastic bags clearly addressed the type of voluntary agreement and provide clear steps on how to implement them. Within the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, this type of agreement shall be sought in Egypt and Lebanon. Within the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, voluntary agreements will be sought across the food and beverage sector to reduce plastic packaging in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro. In order to prepare this and focus the target, the policy gap and material flow analysis implemented in the countries support the identification of priority areas of intervention.

HELCOM	<p>Define and implement appropriate instruments and incentives to reduce the use of plastic bags, including the illustration of the associated costs and environmental impacts (e.g. establishment of levies, deposit fees, taxes or bans on plastic bags). Support regional coordination in the Baltic Sea of the implementation of the future revised Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, for HELCOM Contracting Parties being EU members (RL10)</p> <p>Information on national proposals/instruments was gathered and is being exchanged among HELCOM countries to implement the EU Directive, as well as develop guidance for those countries who have not initiated the process.</p> <p>Available documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Life-cycle assessment of grocery plastic carrier bags in Danish supermarkets in 2017;b) Finnish plastic carrier bag Agreement;c) Lithuanian national waste prevention programme and law on packaging and packaging waste.
OSPAR	<p>Assess relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the use of single-use and other items impacting the marine environment (RAP43).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A background/scoping document has been prepared and is currently being reviewed. <p>Reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags and their presence in the marine environment, supported by quantifiable sub-regional targets (RAP44).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- OSPAR is monitoring progress by Contracting Parties in reducing the use of single-use plastic bags (types of bags, consumption, production, impacts, etc.) together with an overview of the options that could be taken up to reduce their consumption (voluntary agreements, prevention targets, regulations, etc.). This task is still ongoing and discussion is being held on the contribution of OSPAR to the EU process.- A common monitoring indicator on plastic particles ingested by marine turtles was agreed and it will provide information on the efficiency of the measures taken.
CEP	<p>Incentivize private corporate participation including the assessment of existing financial incentives, taxes, fines and subsidies (import, export, stressors) toward the provision of guidelines for fiscal policy reforms and investments; develop recognition programmes for eco-friendly products/services that promote litter-free products/services targeting tourism, agriculture and manufacturing sectors; analyze governance arrangements to incentivize private sector.</p> <p>Assess the value of waste and identify potential market.</p>

SPREP Explore possible ban of import of single-use plastics such as styrofoam, straws and plastic shopping bags.

NOWPAP Action 1.1. of RAP MALI:
- Develop comprehensive national action plans to prevent and reduce marine litter targeting at changes in consumption patterns (e.g. avoiding the use of plastic bags, promoting the use of biodegradable plastics).

G7 MLAP Encouraging industry to develop sustainable packaging and remove ingredients from products to gain environmental benefits, such as by a voluntary phase-out of microbeads;

Summary: The more industrialized Regions appear to widely address this issue through dialogue and negotiations with the industries through e.g. the reduction of fraction of plastic packaging, reduction of microplastics, improvement of packaging design, reduction of over-packaging, and the possible phase-out of microplastics in cosmetic products. Where applicable, the application of similar measures should be explored in the less industrialized Regions as well.

UNEP/MAP Implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery (Art.9).

Explore and implement prevention measures related to procedures and manufacturing methodologies with the plastic industry in order to reduce microplastics (Art.9).

Work is ongoing to support Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to reduce the production, use and disposal of plastic ending up as marine litter through the following measures:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity;
- Establish procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce micro-plastic.

Pilot actions are implemented in Morocco and Algeria in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS. Several other projects (e.g. H2020, Act 4 Litter and Plastic Busters MPAs) are also contributing to this objective. The results from these pilots will be made available in late 2019. Within the EU-funded SwitchMed project, a study was conducted in Morocco to find out about collection and recycling routes in the country, as well as related socioeconomic aspects. This is an important basis to explore EPR schemes in the country and could be applied in the region. Furthermore, 3 pilot projects are planned in 2019-2020 related to marine litter prevention, particularly focused on plastics and micro plastics in cosmetics and the food and beverage plastic packaging sector in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro within the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and IMELS.

HELCOM Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over-packaging and promote wise packaging (RL5).

Available documentation:

- a) Principles to improve the different phases of the design process in terms of reduction/prevention of marine litter generation steamed from the 2018 HELCOM-INTERREG Workshop on marine litter;
 - b) Finnish "Marine litter challenge" competition;
 - c) Finnish development to replace EPS boxes in the fishing and aquaculture industry by board packaging material made of renewable wood fibre;
 - d) Recommendations and manual on how to change the design of packaging focusing on re-use and recycling by the Danish Forum/Danish Plastics Federation for circular plastic packaging.
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OSPAR	<p>Evaluate all products and processes that include primary micro plastics and act to reduce their impact on the marine environment (RAP46).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An assessment document of land-based inputs of microplastics in the marine environment was published in June 2017. - OSPAR has decided to take a step by step approach on microplastics beginning with microbeads in cosmetics followed by pre-production pellets and then other microplastics. <p>Explore with all the appropriate sectors the possibility of a voluntary agreement to phase out the use of micro plastics as a component in personal care and cosmetic products (RAP47).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress has been made as to voluntary agreements with industries for wash off products and proposals were made to the EU for a 100% ban of micro plastics in such products. - Following the release of the EU Plastic Strategy, this action was discussed within the ICG-ML group, and as the upcoming new REACH regulations will address “Primary Microplastics Intentionally Added to Products”, it was decided to wait for this new piece of legislation before taking further steps.
CEP	<p>Conduct research on taxes and subsidies (import, export, stressors). Assess existing financial incentives, taxes, fines and subsidies (import, export, stressors) towards the preparation of guidelines for fiscal policy reforms and investments.</p> <p>Develop recognition programmes for eco-friendly products/services that promote litter-free products/services targeting tourism, agriculture and manufacturing sectors.</p> <p>Analyze governance arrangements to incentivize the private sector. Support efforts to reduce excess and/or unnecessary consumer product packaging.</p>
SPREP	<p>Explore possible ban of import of single-use plastics such as styrofoam, straws and plastic shopping bags.</p>
NOWPAP	

G7 MLAP	Promoting best practices along the whole plastics manufacturing, and value chain from production to transport, e.g. aiming for zero pellet loss;
	Summary: The plastics manufacturing industry is strongly addressed by the more industrialized regions through e.g. the application of the producer responsibility strategy, Ecolabel and the research for alternative material to polystyrene. Where applicable, the implementation of similar measures should be explored in the less industrialized regions as well.
UNEP/MAP	<p>Explore and implement prevention measures related to producer responsibility strategy making producers, brand owners and importers responsible for the entire lifecycle of the product prioritizing long durability for reuse, recycle and materials reduction (Art.9).</p> <p>Explore and implement prevention measures related to sustainable procurement policy contributing to the consumption of recycled plastic-made products (Art.9).</p> <p>The Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the Mediterranean is adopted since 2016 from COP 19, aiming in achieving as a first step the shift to sustainable patterns in priority areas of consumption and production.</p>
HELCOM	<p>Encourage, based on existing labels such as the EU Ecolabel and the Nordic Ecolabel, exchange with international environmental certification schemes for information and inclusion of the management and prevention of marine litter in their lists of criteria (RL12).</p> <p>An overview was produced of the most significant sources of EPS ending in the marine environment with recommendations on voluntary agreements with the industry on changes in product design and applying best practices when handling EPS.</p> <p>Ongoing work and available documentation: “Survey of polystyrene foam (EPS and XPS) in the Baltic Sea”. The Report provides an overview of the most significant sources of EPS and XPS ending up in the marine environment. While the report, requested by action RL 9 in the Regional Plan on marine litter may be approved in May, the catalogue of possible measures to reduce releases in the environment will be discussed in autumn 2019.</p>
OSPAR	<p>Investigate the prevalence and impact of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the marine environment and engage with industry to make proposals for alternative material (RAP49).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The OceanWise project (2018-2020) will propose and test plausible options (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover alternative materials) to achieve better environmental outcomes. <p>Promote initiatives and exchange of best practices aiming at zero pellet loss along the whole plastic manufacturing chain from production to transport (RAP52).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OSPAR Background document on pre-production plastic pellets has been prepared and published (https://ospar.org/documents?v=39764) - Stakeholder dialogue events will continue until October 2019. - A proposal for an OSPAR Recommendation will be discussed during 2019 with a view to come to an agreement for its implementation starting from 2020.
CEP	<p>Best practices promoted as guiding principle for all proposed marine litter-generating activities.</p> <p>Incentivize private corporate participation by assessing existing fiscal</p>

incentives, taxes, fines and subsidies (import, export, stressors) towards the preparation of guidelines providing for fiscal policy reforms and investments, the development of recognition programmes for eco-friendly products/services that promote litter-free products/services targeting tourism, agriculture and manufacturing sectors, and the analysis of governance arrangements to incentivize the private sector.
Identify alternatives to existing products and technologies.

SPREP Data analysis from pacific recycling study to feed into status of plastic accumulation areas, hubs, for plastic recycling.

NOWPAP Action 1.2. of RAP MALI:
- Apply the developed sectorial guidelines taking into account best management practices on marine litter in the tourism sector and the plastic industry

NOWPAP and its Regional Activity Centers published various sectoral guidelines on marine litter prevention in the tourism, shipping and fishing industries.

Removal Actions

G7 MLAP Identifying accumulation areas of marine litter and establishing an exchange platform on experiences in marine litter removal on beaches, riverbanks, seafloor, the water column and sea surface areas, ports and inland waterways;

Summary: Monitoring activities are ongoing in all Regions and data is collected both at the national and regional levels. Although the programmes are at different stages of implementation, it seems that the need to identify accumulation areas of litter in the different environmental compartments (sea, coastal areas, rivers, ports and inland waterways) is well acknowledged and ongoing, thus fulfilling the G7 countries' objective and priority action.

UNEP/MAP Explore and implement in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders the identification of accumulation/hot spots of marine litter and implement national programmes for their removal and sound disposal (Art.10).

A Regional Survey on abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gears and ghost nets was prepared by UN Environment/MAP in 2015. Work is ongoing to support Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to develop a risk assessment tool, in collaboration with the HELCOM Secretariat and the EU-funded MARELITT Baltic project, to identify where in the Mediterranean marine litter - especially ghost nets which pose a threat for marine biota - is accumulating and should be removed. A sub-regional meeting on the application of developed tools for identifying and assessing marine litter hotspots is planned to be organized during the second half of 2019 in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS.

HELCOM Address landfills or dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment due to factors such as coastal erosion and vicinity to rivers (RL14).

On-going work: survey to HELCOM countries conducted by Estonia (2016) Feedback provided by all HELCOM members except Germany, Lithuania and Russia. The received feedback indicated that all the landfills are under control in the region and cannot be considered as sources of marine litter. The Questionnaire has been recently relaunched to update information until the end of May 2019. As a follow up, the work will focus on the visualization of a region-wide map of landfills (by autumn 2109).

Establish an exchange platform for spreading experiences on good cleaning practices in beaches, including cleaning beaches actions by local communities, riverbanks, pelagic and surface sea areas, ports, marinas and inland waterways, in cooperation with relevant fora and develop best practice on environmental friendly technology and clean-up methods.

Ongoing work: The International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" and Exhibition "Ecology in the Big City" will serve as platform to exchange good practices and technologies for cleaning beaches, ports, marinas and inland waterways.

OSPAR Develop sub regional or regional maps of hot spots of floating litter and identify hot spots of accumulation on coastal areas (RAP55).

Develop a risk assessment for identifying where accumulation of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment (RAP57).

Identify hot spots areas through mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds (RAP56).

Establish an exchange platform on experiences on good cleaning practices in beaches, riverbanks, pelagic and surface sea areas, ports and inland waterways. g grounds (RAP54).

- RAP Actions 54, 55, 56 and 57 are partly being tackled by the CleanAtlantic project, a consortium of entities from Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal (with OSPAR as an associate partner), funded by INTERREG ATLANTIC. The project started in September 2017 and will be completed in August 2020.
- Other projects are being implemented through the EU-funded MARLITT Project, with pilot schemes in the Baltic Sea.

CEP	<p>Conduct a GAP analysis of overlap of high density marine litter areas with highly sensitive areas in order to prioritize clean-up and mitigation efforts (Action 4.3.6).</p> <p>Identify pollution hot spots and assess major sources of marine litter including the development of a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to understand hydrographic patterns that facilitate the accumulation of litter in specific areas.</p> <p>Develop remote sensing approach to identify polluted areas and point and non-point sources of pollution.</p>
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SPREP	<p>Address countries with most mismanaged waste that could end up in the marine environment. Data analysis from pacific recycling study to feed into status of plastic accumulation areas, hubs, for plastic recycling.</p>
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NOWPAP	<p>Regional review of marine litter in the NOWPAP region (2008);</p> <p>Annual mariner litter monitoring data are available for each member states since 2000-2002;</p> <p>Annual coastal cleanup campaigns and marine litter management workshops in each member state, organized jointly with the Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting;</p> <p>Data and information is maintained in the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the GPML.</p>

G7 MLAP Supporting the removal of litter where it poses a threat to sensitive marine ecosystems, in an environmentally sound way, taking into account the socioeconomic aspects including cost effectiveness, thereby using best available techniques (BAT) and best Environmental practice (BEP) and engaging partners where possible;

Summary: Not all Regions appear to have well established and regular systems for the removal of marine litter. However, important efforts are made in some Regions e.g. for the removal of litter in Specially Protected Areas, in the application of the "fishing for litter" approach and in the development of best practice for the removal of old pleasure boats and derelict fishing gears. It appears that, in spite of a number of solid initiatives, the regular removal of marine litter should be addressed more efficiently and widely if the G7 countries' objective and priority action is to be fulfilled.

UNEP/MAP Remove existing accumulated litter in particular from Specially Protected areas as well as litter impacting endangered species (Art.10).

Explore and implement the "Fishing for litter" environmental sound practice to facilitate the cleanup of floating litter and the seabed (Art.10). Guidelines were prepared and endorsed.

More than 20 Adopt-a-beach pilots, in 9 different Mediterranean countries (i.e. Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia) are currently implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS. Fishing-for-litter pilot projects have been designed with MEDPOL's support in five countries (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia), in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project. Pilot projects are ongoing, expected to be finalized by September 2019. Fishing-for-litter guidelines have been approved since 2016 and are currently under development. Adopt-a-beach guidelines, are in the very final stage of their finalization after have been well received by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

A basin-wide reduction target of 20% till 2024 for beach marine litter, along with reduction targets for other marine litter types have been adopted since 2016 by COP 19. Moreover, BAT and BEP are effectively addressed by the Regional Plan Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean. In particular, three national capacity building workshops were held and training material to guide the implementation of "fishing for litter" were developed.

HELCOM Development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats (i.e. intentional disposal of the boats at the ending of their lifetime in the sea and on shore) (RS1).

On-going work and available documentation: "Development of best practice for the disposal of old pleasure boats", prepared by Finland. The document, that contains a compilation of information on international and national practices and economic incentives for the appropriate disposal of old pleasure boats, will assist HELCOM in further addressing the issue.

Through a multinational project, such as the MARELITT Baltic project, together with the fishing industry and other stakeholders, develop and promote best practice in relation to ALDFG and derelict fishing gear and their removal (RS6).

On-going work and available documentation:

- a) Regional Questionnaire compiling information on national activities regarding ALDFG;
 - b) Preliminary proposed actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea opened for national comments. A Workshop will be held in Autumn 2019.
 - c) MARELITT Baltic project "Removal of derelict fishing gear, lost or discarded by fishermen in the Baltic Sea" (2016-2018) has recently been completed and the project recommendations "Baltic Sea Blueprint" will be available in
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June 2019.

OSPAR	<p>Reduction of marine litter through implementation of fishing for litter initiatives (RAP53).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Revised OSPAR Guidelines were prepared and adopted.- 750 vessels are currently engaged, involving 8 Contracting Parties and over 700 tonnes of marine litter have been removed in 2017. <p>Reduction of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (RAP55).</p> <p>Develop best practice on environmental friendly technologies and methods for cleaning beaches, riverbanks, pelagic and surface areas, ports and inland waterways (RAP54).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- RAP Actions 54 and 55 are partly being tackled by the CleanAtlantic project, a consortium of entities from Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal (with OSPAR as an associate partner), funded by INTERREG ATLANTIC. The project started in September 2017 and will be completed in August 2020.- Other projects are being implemented through the EU-funded MARLITT Project, with pilot schemes in the Baltic Sea.
CEP	<p>Conduct a gap analysis of overlap of high density marine litter areas with highly sensitive areas (endangered species, key habitats, etc.) in order to prioritize clean-ups and mitigation efforts.</p> <p>Reduce the transfer of non-native species via marine litter.</p> <p>Evaluate the most appropriate habitat restoration mechanisms that can reduce pollution and identify strategic targets to reduce and/or restore marine ecosystem functions altered by land-based/marine litter pollution.</p> <p>Identify best use of technology to enable and support marine litter removal/prevention initiatives and substitute counterproductive technology.</p>
SPREP	
NOWPAP	<p>Action 3.2. of RAP MALI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Designate a local responsible authority to undertake regular removal operations of marine litter using modern technologies <p>Annual coastal clean-up campaigns in member states.</p>

To address Sea-based sources

G7 MLAP Working to maximize the amount of waste delivered to port reception facilities and disposed of properly in accordance with Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Summary: The implementation of Annex V to the MARPOL Convention seems to be well advanced in most Regions and efforts are made to promote ratification where needed. In addition, in most Regions special importance is given to the monitoring of violations and to the identification of best practices in relation to inspections. Considering that the specific objective and priority action are fully compatible with those of the Regions, efforts should be mainly concentrated on assisting countries where needed, to ensure the ratification and the implementation of Annex V of the MARPOL Convention.

UNEP/MAP Explore and implement charging reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, the introduction of no-special-fee system (Art.10).

Activities related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas are assigned to the UN Environment/MAP Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). These activities, implemented in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter-MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, focus on measures related to the better management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean, more specifically the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system; and the provision of port reception facilities as well as the delivery of ship-generated wastes. Pilots in 7 Mediterranean countries (expected to be finalised in 2019) are currently implemented and coordinated by REMPEC in selected major ports and marinas within the framework of the EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" project (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) and the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Slovenia). Pilots in 5 other Mediterranean countries are still to be confirmed (Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Libya). A study (No-Special-Fee system) was presented during the Regional Meetings on Marine Litter Best Practices (9-10 October 2018, Izmir, Turkey; 8-10 April 2019, Seville, Spain). Furthermore, two regional guidelines are in their final stage of development, after having received two rounds of comments from the Mediterranean Countries:

- Operational Guidelines on the Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes in the Mediterranean;
- Guidance Document to Determine the Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities or, when Applicable, Application of No-Special-Fee System in the Mediterranean.

HELCOM Develop best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V, including harmonized management of data. Support regional coordination of IMO regulations in accordance with EU requirements for those HELCOM countries which are EU members (RS2).

Available documentation: a) "Sanctions, penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM Contracting Parties for waste disposal offences at sea" prepared by Germany; b) Report of the Seminar on the prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea (November 2018).

Further work on implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea countries, addressing:

- gaps in existing regulations,
- enforcement and practices concerning shipping,
- port reception facilities auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection,
- fair waste burden sharing between ports (RS3).

Implementation of the ISO standard (ISO 201070:2013) in relation to port reception facilities. Differentiate according to the size of the port. Promote the development of

regional statistics on waste collected in ports based on existing information as far as possible (RS4).

OSPAR	<p>Identify best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V ship generated waste, including better management of reporting data (RAP32).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A supporting report on the actions taken on waste disposal offences at sea including proposals for recommendations and a possible way forward has been prepared.- A joint Workshop with HELCOM, Barcelona Convention and key stakeholders (European Marine Safety Agency, IMO, North Sea Prosecutors, ship owners associations, harbour associations and NGOs) was held in Berlin in 2018. The results of the workshop will be further discussed during 2019. <p>Ensure regional coordination on the implementation of MARPOL Annex V. Such a coordination should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) deliver a cost recovery system, ensuring the maximum amount of MARPOL Annex V ship generated waste delivered to port reception facilities;b) not solely focusing on reception facilities but also other relevant differences;c) analyze the implementation of compulsory discharge of waste in each port for all ships leaving the OSPAR maritime area for non-EU ports (RAP30). <p>OSPAR organized in September 2018 a Meeting at the European Parliament (incl. the Transport Committee rapporteur) providing information on the OSPAR monitoring activities, indicating the importance of sea-based sources for the overall litter pollution in the OSPAR region and links between the PRF Directive and the OSPAR RAP.</p> <p>Improve implementation of ISO Standard in relation to port reception facilities (RAP34). A green deal on ship waste management was to be developed in 2018. However, a workshop with frontrunners showed insufficient support for setting up an international green deal, which is partly due to the new PRF Directive. Therefore, the international green deal was taken off the table. Actions are therefore focusing on the EU process concerning the PRF Directive.</p>
CEP	<p>Expand ratification and promote effective implementation of MARPOL Annex V by all states of the Caribbean (Action 4.1.4).</p> <p>Implement the 2012 amendment to the MARPOL Annex V and implementation of Annex V Special Area status for the wider Caribbean region (Action 4.1.3).</p> <p>Promote best practices for effective waste management including collection, recovery and disposal of ship-generated waste.</p>
SPREP	<p>Implement monitoring of violations to the MAPOL Annex V.</p>
NOWPAP	<p>Action 1.2 of RAP MALI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provide assistance in implementing the requirements of Annex V to the MARPOL Convention to provide and improve port reception facilities for all type of ship generated waste in ports, harbours, terminals and marinas- Prepare administrative regulations and disseminate related information on waste management in ports and marinas taking into account best practices related to marine litter.

G7 MLAP Identifying the options to address key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture which could contribute to marine litter, and implement pilot projects where appropriate (including deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and end-of-life recovery) and take into account the expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Summary: The identification and the implementation of measures to minimize litter from fishing and aquaculture activities are being well considered in the Regions where the fishing industry is more developed. Specific measures include "fishing gear marking", the use of environmentally neutral nets, pots and traps, best practice application in waste management onboard and at ports, operational losses/net cuttings, deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and extended producer responsibility. Similar initiatives should be promoted also in regions and countries with more limited and local fishing activities.

UNEP/MAP Explore and implement "fishing gear marking" and reduced ghost catches concepts through the use of environmentally neutral (upon degradation) nets, pots and traps (Art.9).

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is in charge for the preparation and development of the guidelines for the marking of fishing gear. A technical consultation meeting on the marking of fishing gear was organized in Rome, Italy, 5–9 February 2018, during which the draft guidelines on the marking of fishing gear were discussed. The next step is to design pilot project to test the guidelines. UN Environment/MAP is working towards that direction through a project proposal, in the framework of the new GEF-7, including relevant provisions for the implementation of pilots to test the FAO the voluntary guidelines.

HELCOM Promote and disseminate best practice in relation to all relevant aspects of waste management within the fishing sector (including e.g. waste management on board, waste management at harbors and operational losses/net cuttings) (RS5)

On-going work:

- National (SE) report on management on board and in harbours;
 - OSPAR report on best practices for waste management within the fishing sector to be ready during 2017. Applicable to the Baltic Sea?
 - National PoM (SE) includes a measure to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing in national waters;
 - Finland is carrying out a national survey on the sources of both macro- and micro-litter (plastics) in order to support National POM. The survey will result in a detailed analysis of litter sources from fishing and aquaculture.
 - The green deal to reduce the waste from the fishing and aquaculture sectors is being discussed in Germany.
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OSPAR Develop and promote best practice together with fishing industry and relevant authorities in relation to marine litter including dolly rope, waste management on board and at harbours and operational loss/net cuttings (RAP36).

- Fisheries actions are using a joint approach with one project team, including projects and observers
- A Questionnaire was prepared on waste characterization from aquaculture and fisheries to gain a better knowledge on potential environmental impacts.
- A Report was prepared and a stakeholders workshop was held including recommendations. A stakeholder workshop was held in Rotterdam in November 2017. The participants included representatives from nine Contracting Parties, the fishing industry, port authorities, waste contractors and NGOs.
- Research is being developed for the adoption of a circular economy

approach to fishing gear in the framework of the proposal for the Extended Producer Responsibility of the European Commission. Research will focus on the relevant knowledge and experience of the OSPAR area and will provide guidance for the possible implementation of EPR.

- Studies are being developed on how to facilitate recycling of fishing gear, creating the basis for a circular approach to fishing gear, involving stakeholders in joint research efforts. A workshop will be held in 2109.

Identify the options to address key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture including deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and extended producer responsibility (RAP35).

- A Questionnaire requesting information on current practices has been distributed among Contracting Parties.
- A background document has been prepared and is expected to be published in 2109.

CEP Initiate the assessment of the generation and impact of abandoned and lost fishing gears in the Wider Caribbean Region.
Develop best practices for the development and operation of National Inspectoral Committees (NICs) on ocean governance including marine litter. Identify stakeholders including fishermen to assist and contribute to marine litter research and monitoring initiatives.

SPREP

NOWPAP Action 1.2 of RAP MALL:

- Develop and apply operational fishing methods that minimize the loss of fishing gears according to FAO technical Guidelines
- Develop and use marked fishing gears to identify its owner thus contributing to reducing fishery-related marine litter
- Apply market-based economic instruments such as incentives for fishermen for removal of marine litter and port reception fees
- Various guidelines published.

Education, research and Outreach

G7 MLAP Promoting outreach and education activities leading to individual behavior change that can reduce the amount of litter entering the environment, internal waters and sea

Summary: Very numerous and diversified are the activities implemented in all the Regions in the framework of education, research and outreach. They include the consolidation of a data bank on marine litter and information sheets available to the large public, training for seafarers, fishermen, ship owners, port operators and users of pleasure crafts, development of a communication strategy linked to national initiatives, organization of model beach clean-ups, community-based public education campaigns, radio talks and TV shows. It appears that the objective and priority action agreed by the G7 countries are well reflected in the activities implemented in the Regions.

UNEP/MAP Undertake public awareness and education activities with regard to marine litter management, prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production (Art.16).

Two marine litter side events were organized at COP 19 and COP 20, and side events on marine litter for the Mediterranean were organized during UNEA-2 and UNEA-4. The two editions of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter were shared among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2016 and 2017. A third edition of the MOOC on Marine Litter is expected in April 2019. The under-development Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter (exp. to be finalized in first half of 2019) is expected to further assist the effectiveness in the implementation of Article 16, as will further include educational material and relevant information.

HELCOM To prepare information sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programs, especially for professional seafarers including fishermen, highlighting the marine litter problem and including codes of practice in cooperation with relevant organisations including IMO (RE1).

OSPAR Develop marine litter assessment sheets to assist countries to develop material for education programmes including seafarers and fishermen (RAP58).

- A background document on sustainable fishing education at fishing academies was prepared and adopted (<https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=38953>)
- A draft Recommendation and Guidelines have been prepared for consideration by OSPAR Commission during 2019.

Establish and share a database on good practice examples of marine litter measures and initiatives (RAP59).

- A joint Meeting between HELCOM, OSPAR, The Barcelona Convention and the EU was held in November 2017 to discuss the respective regional action plans and opportunities for cooperation and information sharing.

Develop a communication strategy on the Regional Action Plan linked with national initiatives/measures (RAP60).

- After the adoption of a communication strategy in 2014, a new strategy was proposed and approved in 2018. The new strategy establishes the communication context for OSPAR work on marine litter and describes the various communication tools indicating the achievement of key milestones of the ML RAP, such as reports, new assessments, the agreement on new measures, while informing on any new event such as meetings, workshops, seminars, etc.
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CEP	<p>As indicated in the Regional Action Plan and the Draft Strategy, priority areas will be: 1) Advocacy and lobbying to influence decision makers; 2) Education (formal education); 3) Awareness: communicating and making things feasible; and 4) Outreach: reaching communities.</p> <p>Develop and implement community-based public education campaigns for marine litter prevention, including specialized marine litter prevention programmes for key user groups and stakeholders (Action 4.4.1).</p> <p>Develop a regional campaign for international coastal cleanup (Action 4.4.2).</p> <p>Develop a regional, web-based database as clearinghouse for marine litter information and research (Action 4.3.2).</p> <p>Assess the social and cultural behavior associated with consumption, waste generation and littering: identify and quantify social impacts of pollution on multiple sectors; conduct risk assessments; conduct research on most appropriate messaging for effective communication at various levels to effect attitudinal and behavioral change; conduct research attitudinal and behavioral change of drivers.</p>
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SPREP	<p>Implement coast cleanups, radio talk, TV shows.</p>
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NOWPAP	<p>Action 1.3 of RAP MALI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement education and training programmes for ship owners, operators, crews, port users, fishermen, users of pleasure crafts and the general public on marine litter causes, effects and possible prevention - Formulate and implement public awareness campaign for the general public, all related industrial sectors, municipal authorities, local communities and media to reduce the generation of waste and environmentally sound disposal and reuse - Organize and coordinate voluntary beach clean-ups as a tool to educate and involve local communities, stakeholders and media - Annual coastal cleanup campaigns in member states with active role of local NGOs

Annex II

List of Participants

Workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions
(5-6 May 2019, Metz, France)

List of Participants

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