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Tackling pollution from marine litter

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European
Commission

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Tackling marine pollution of the Baltic Sea

Different interacting pressures

The Baltic Sea

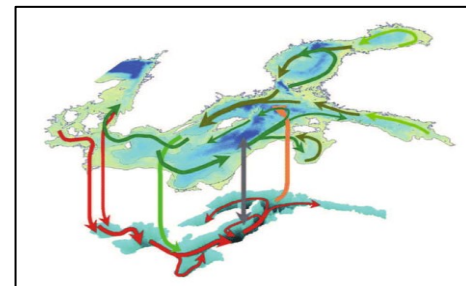
- Semi-enclosed sea with limited water exchange
- Multiple pressures from pollution, including historical emissions
- excess of nutrients, chemicals from consumer products, industrial emissions, agrochemicals, dumped ammunitions, littering, noise, etc.,
- Efforts by WFD, MSFD, HELCOM, Chemicals Policy, etc.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive MSFD provides the EU wide framework for marine monitoring, assessment and the implementation of measures against pollution

- MSFD Descriptors include Eutrophication, Contaminants, Litter, Noise

Marine litter

Recent (10 years ca.) large scale attention, a (partly) visible threat related to identifiable sources and an evident example of non-circular use of resources



Water Circulation in the Baltic Sea
(Meier 2006)

Marine Litter in the Baltic Sea

Baselines and Threshold



Marine Litter of different types and from different sources is present in different compartments

- Beach (Coastline) Litter, Floating Litter, Seafloor Litter (incl. derelict fishing gear), Microlitter (incl. microplastic)

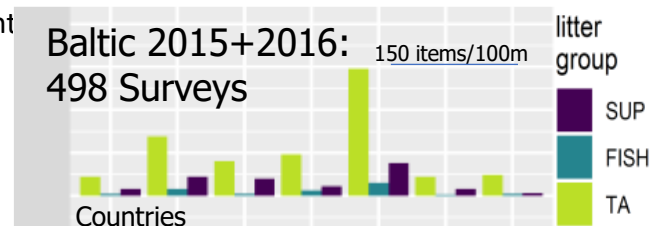
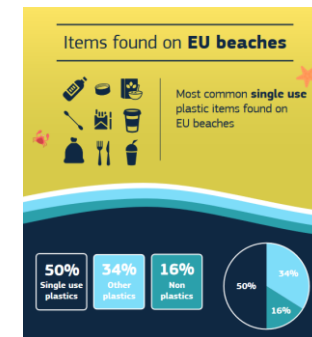
Beach Litter Baseline 2015/2016 (Single Use Plastics, Fisheries, Total Abundance)

- Collection of MS data by MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter with EMODnet
- Identification of most frequent litter types
- Mapping the spatial distribution of litter abundances

EU Threshold Value for Coastline Macro Litter 20 Litter Items/100 m Coastline

- To be supported, where needed, with intermediate targets and the identification of transboundary litter transport

MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter:
All EU Coastal Countries, RSCS, NGOs, ...
Chaired by France, Germany and JRC



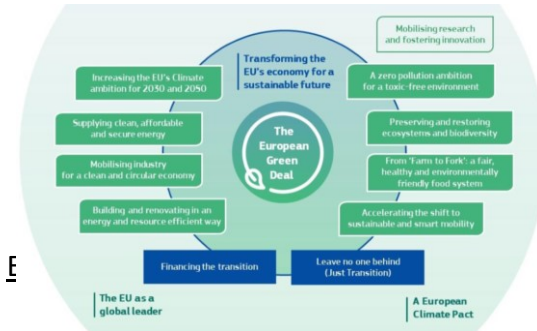
Activities against marine litter at EU level

A suite of measures tackling the sources

Marine Litter comes from multiple sources: littering, industries (incl. fisheries), etc. Different sources require specific measures, tackling the main ones with priority!

Regional Action Plans are in place, EU level activities under the European Green Deal + EU Strategy include:

- Single Use Plastics Directive Directive (EU) 2019/904 - Provisions to reduce the impact from certain plastic categories, single use plastic products and fishing gear
- Fishing Gear - Circular design of fishing gear to encourage re-use and facilitate recyclability Extended producer responsibility schemes (by 31/12/2024) for producers of fishing gear
- Port Reception Facilities (EU) 2019/883 - Reduction of waste from ships at sea, 100% Indirect Fee, enhancing the availability and use of port reception waste facilities
- Provisions against Microplastics - REACH restrictions
- Waste legislation and others.....



THANK YOU



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