

# TOPIC #4: Prevention of marine litter: addressing single use plastic items

## Stakeholder Conference:

## „Reinventing Plastics – Closing the Circle“

@<http://blog.agquahealth.com>; Garry Bell Corbis & <http://coastalcare.org>)



*Stefanie Werner*

Co-chair **EU MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter**

German Environment Agency (UBA)

Email: [stefanie.werner@uba.de](mailto:stefanie.werner@uba.de)

## Organisation:

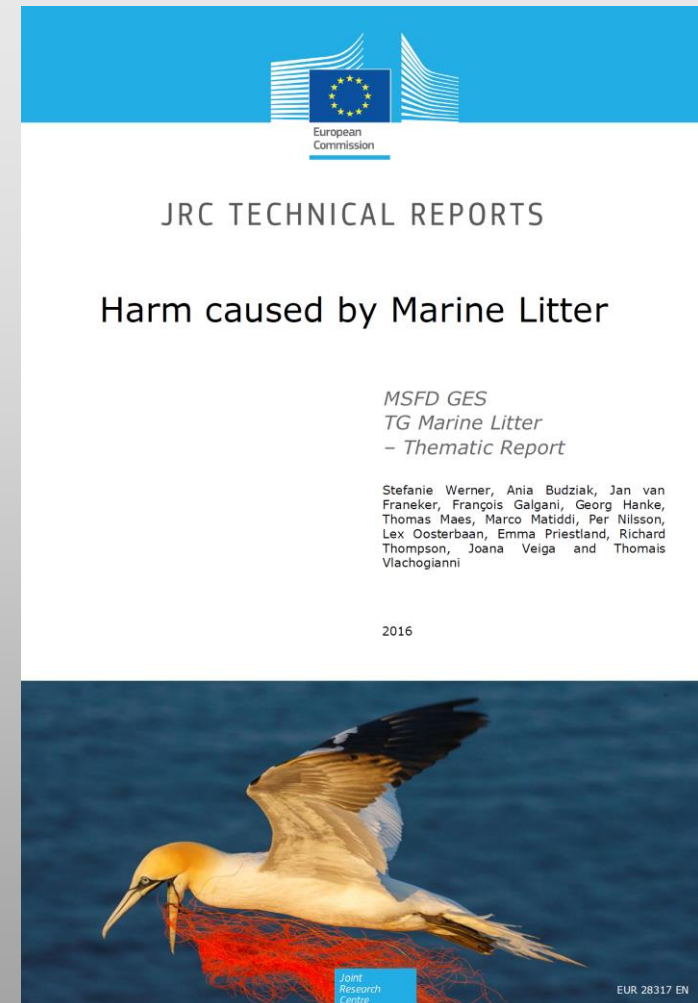
- Started in 2012, scientific experts from all 24 coastal European Member States plus USA, 9 NGOs and 4 Regional Seas Conventions

## Focus on:

- Developing common monitoring tools and protocols
- Facilitating/harmonizing the implementation of monitoring programmes
- Evaluating harm, sources, **top findings**
- Deriving baselines and thresholds

## Reports:

- 2011: Marine Litter - Technical Recommendations for the implementation of MSFD Requirements
- 2013: Guidance on Monitoring of Marine Litter in European Seas
- 2016: Sources, riverine inputs and harm caused by marine litter
- **2016: Ad hoc report “Marine Beach Litter in Europe Top items” (JRC 103929)**



# Top litter findings on beaches

- Data available for North Sea (OSPAR), Baltic Sea (HELCOM), Mediterranean Sea (MEDPOL), Black Sea and from ARCADIS, EEA, ICC
- Of the identifiable items (excluding unidentifiable plastic fragments) following rank high across the different lists:

- Nets & ropes
- **Plastic caps and lids**
- **Cigarette butts**
- **Crisp and sweet wrappers**
- **Lolly sticks**
- String and cord < 1cm diameter
- **Cotton bud sticks**
- **Plastic drink bottles**
- **Plastic food containers**
- **Balloons**
- **Plastic cuttlery**
- **Plastic bags**

**In bold = single-use items**

**10 out of 12**

**Revised report on top items planned for 2017:**

- Providing an overview of existing methodologies and approaches to identify top items
- Analyzing existing data in terms of distribution of top items
- Identifying additional information regarding risks related to items
- Discussing priority ranking of top items
- Identifying further needs for information and action

## Sea-based sources

- Port Reception Facilities
- Waste from Fishing industry
- Fines for littering at sea
- Fishing for Litter
- Abandoned and lost fishing gear (ALDFG)
- Floating Litter hotspots
- Enforcement of legislation

## Land-based sources

- Improved waste management
- Sewage/stormwater run-off
- Reduction of single use items
- Sustainable packaging
- Removal of micro plastics from products
- Zero pellet loss
- Redesign of harmful products



# Tailor-made solutions required: example plastic bag

Source	Pathway	Potential Measure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal tourism &amp; recreation</li> <li>Consumer/general public</li> <li>Inadequate waste logistics/management on river shores, beaches, coasts</li> <li>Landfill sites</li> </ul>	<p>Direct entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Littered or lost on beaches</li> <li>Overflowing open bins in coastal areas (wind blown dispersal or dispersal by biota)</li> </ul> <p>Distant entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Littering e.g. on streets, from cars, in natural areas and transported by wind, rivers, ocean currents and tides</li> <li>Wind blown dispersal from landfill sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substitution of plastics (use of alternative materials)</li> <li>No delivery of bags free of charge</li> <li>Reuse, return, deposit &amp; levy systems</li> <li>Widely applied collection of waste</li> <li>Reduction of landfilled quantities of waste/proper operation of landfill sites</li> <li>Improve waste logistics on river shores, beaches, coasts</li> <li>Control, penalty and fee systems against littering</li> <li>Minimizing littering through awareness raising</li> </ul>

Many thanks for your attention! Questions?



@ Yamamoto Biology/Creative Commons