



Black Sea Commission: Extent of problem/current status

Irina Makarenko

***LL.M., Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution
(Bucharest Convention)***

Some facts



- ***Increased population in the coastal areas***
- ***Transboundary problem due to the enclosed sea basin with dynamic current system***
- ***Non biodegradable nature of large portion of ML - not only aesthetical problem, may damage the living organisms and threaten the biodiversity***
- ***very limited data on amounts of marine litter***
- ***results of the local surveys - disposable packaging and short life or single use plastic goods are predominant***
- ***sources mostly are: municipal waste/sewage and badly managed landfills, marine transport and ports, recreational activities in coastal areas, IUU fishing activities.***

Legal instruments in the Black Sea area



- ***International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) -√***
- ***Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (the London Convention)- X***
- ***Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (the Basel Convention) - √***

- ***Bucharest Convention was signed in Bucharest in April 1992 and ratified in 1994; its basic objective to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea***
- ***4 Protocols: LBS Protocol, Dumping Protocol, Emergency Situations Protocol, CBD Protocol and Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP) adopted in 1996 and amended in 2009***
- ***6 Advisory Groups: ESAS, PMA, LBS, ICZM, CBD, FOMLR***

ML-related documents



- **Bucharest Convention** itself
- **LBS Protocol (in force), Dumping Protocol:** three lists of hazardous substances and matter annexed to the Convention and these Protocols include plastic marine litter
- The **new LBS Protocol** agreed upon in 2009, but which has not yet entered into force, includes a **clear definition of marine litter** (adopting the UNEP definition)
- **BS SAP (2009)** incorporated the recommendations on fighting with marine litter, and presented a **series of management targets** (short-term and mid-term “management targets” with a medium priority)
- The Contracting Parties are urged to: ***“Amend national waste strategies and/or national coastal zone management plans with the aim of coastal and marine litter minimization”*** and ***“develop regional and national marine litter monitoring and assessment methodologies”***

ML-related activities



- In **2005**, the **Regional Activity on Marine Litter**, supported by **UNEP**, was launched
- During the following **3 years** the **two relevant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** between the BSC Permanent Secretariat and UNEP (Nairobi) were implemented
- **2007 Report on Marine Litter in the Black Sea (incl. the text of the Draft Marine Litter Action Plan for the Black Sea)**
- **Recommendation for updating the BS SAP**, on methodologies, monitoring and assessment, increased public awareness on marine litter in the Black Sea
- **Advisory Groups** activities under the BSC umbrella (LBS, ICZM and FOMLR), in 2006 - Special session on Marine Litter during the PMA AG meeting
- **Observers and various partners** in the Black Sea region, including RSCs and international organizations, such as the **Danube Commission, IMO, UN GFCM** etc.
- **Partner or sub-contractor** in a range of **EU-funded projects** (Advisory Board of MARLISCO, CLEANSEA, MSFD Project, PERSEUS, STAGES etc.)

Steps towards establishing the RAP



Operational targets:

- methodology of assessment of ML.
- To set up quantitative targets and to measure the amount of ML as of 2013.
- ensuring that amounts do not increase in the future/in the next 5 years in comparison to 2013 (accidental loss of waste from landfills/Reduce number of illegal landfills and dumpsites, beach litter, litter from maritime activities and IUU fishing).

Concrete measures/actions:

- education and outreach on ML impacts/ML public awareness campaign.
- stricter enforcement of international waste regulations.
- implement professional sectoral guidelines, adequate port reception facilities, timely handling and safe disposal of waste.
- improved waste management/landfill management.
- waste bins near the coast/beaches.
- incentives/disincentives for littering.

Clean-up measures.

Smart production.

Measures addressing knowledge and data gaps.

Conclusions and recommendations:



- **Short-term targets:**
- amounts and consistency of marine litter is not adequately evaluated and monitored - urgent need to develop a national and regional methodology of ML assessment; amend the reporting templates of the LBS, ICZM, FOMLR and PMA AGs; set reduction targets at regional level.
- **Mid-term targets:**
- BATs, unification of approaches between RSCs, ML public awareness campaign, new projects, initiatives, related MoUs etc.
- **Long-term targets:**
- amendments to the Bucharest Convention.
- recommendations for amendments into the BS SAP 2009 (First Report on the Implementation of the BS SAP, 2013).
- Entering into force of the LBS Protocol (2009).
- dedicated legal documents (i.e. guidelines, the new Protocol to the Bucharest Convention, Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter etc. – possible reconsideration of 2006 version).



Thanks for your kind attention!

Irina Makarenko

Email: irina.makarenko@blacksea-commission.org