



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

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For our Environment



**International Conference on Prevention and
Management of Marine Litter in European Seas**

Berlin, 10 – 12 April 2013

Session 2 Report Back: HELCOM-Group

Chairs: M. Durkin, S. Korpinen

Moderator: T. Dworak

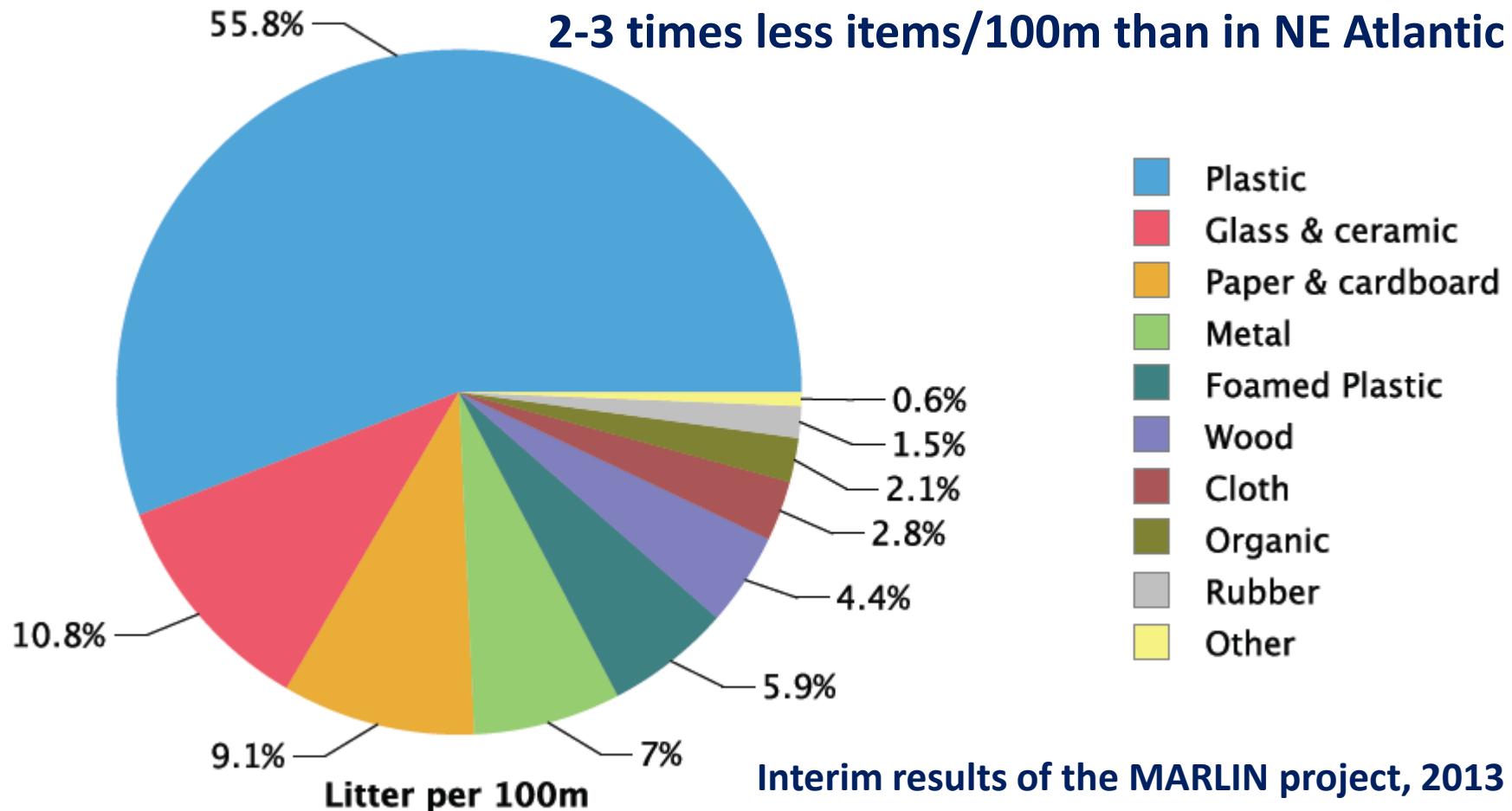
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“Fresh” Baltic knowledge

Proportion of marine litter (all measures since start)





Outcome/discussions: Step 1 (Sources - Amounts - Gaps):

- Information on sources and amounts present a highly varied picture
- Monitoring system in place is not sufficient in order to make a clear statement on the main sources
 - ML is not included in all national monitoring systems
- Lack of certain information
 - Lack of long-term trend information
 - Lack of information on socio-economic impacts of ML
 - Toxicity of the waste and impacts on ecosystem is still an information gap
 - Better understanding of sources, e.g. Riverine inputs



Outcome/discussions: Step 2 (operational targets):

- Need environmental targets to validate OT and easier to communicate to wider public
- Link between operational and environmental targets
- Source is very uncertain which could make operational targets on ML difficult to define
- When we consider operational targets:
 - Fishing nets highly relevant.
 - Beach litter good example.
 - Sanitary items questionable due to the uncertainty on source
 - River litter important
 - Waste management targets (collection, recycling)
- Important to have quantitative targets because e.g. using the qualitative term “significant” is too vague



Outcome/discussions: Step 3 (measures):

1. Improving waste management
2. Standardised monitoring programmes
3. Education and Outreach
- 4-5. Deposit refund systems and ban / taxes on plastic bags
6. Introduce incentives for good behaviour / Disincentives for littering
- 7-8. Implement more stringent regulation of plastic packaging / measures to reduce microplastics from sewage discharge
- 9-10. Measures to reduce losses of fishing gear/Ghost Nets

- ✓ Measure(s) on pleasure boating
- ✓ Promotion of Fishing for Litter initiatives
- ✓ Further harmonization of "no-special-fee"-system
- ✓ Awareness on disposal of sanitary and hygiene products
- ✓ Research on importance of sanitary waste
- ✓ More stringent regulation of plastic packaging
- ✓ Sustainable packaging guidelines
- ✓ Phasing out certain products on the market
- ✓ Replace the plastic in cotton swabs with paper/carton.
- ✓ Compulsory beach cleaning by local communities and/or private companies and schools

Additional proposed measures

- Definition of marine litter in the Helsinki Convention
- Enforcing existing ML regulations
- PRF auditing, no "ceiling" amounts for litter in ports
- Compensation for Fishing for Litter activities
- Measures for removal of River litter
- Better data on plastic use/production



Outcome/discussions: Step 4 (evaluating measures):

1. Improved Waste management / landfilling

- Action on different levels needed
- Number of processes already in place to improve waste management
- Financial tools like regional funds, twinning, training of national judges
- From the EC side could launch infringements as there are laws in order to force MS to expand infrastructure

2. Standard monitoring programmes

- A more detailed monitoring programming is being developed. ML is in there but there is no detail on indicators and sampling
- HELCOM should take into account ongoing work in EC / globally
- Need a sound scientific database and research efforts to check and develop methodologies and see if they are comparable



Outcome/discussions: Step 4 (evaluating measures):

3. Education and Outreach on marine litter impacts/problem

- Focus more on awareness of public and a little less on education
- Who should carry out the education and awareness? Involvement of all levels and all stakeholders

4-5 Deposit refund systems for bottles and Ban/taxes on plastic bags

- Lack of harmonisation of refund systems
- Deposit for other types of packaging not just bottles
- Perhaps a phasing out of non-degradable plastics
- High misconception on biodegradability of “biodegradable” plastic
- Think of alternatives if ban the thin plastic bags or maybe charge for the thin bags as well