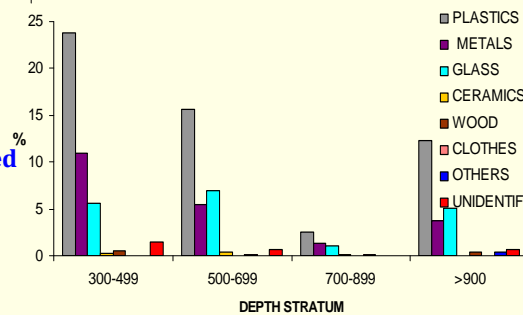
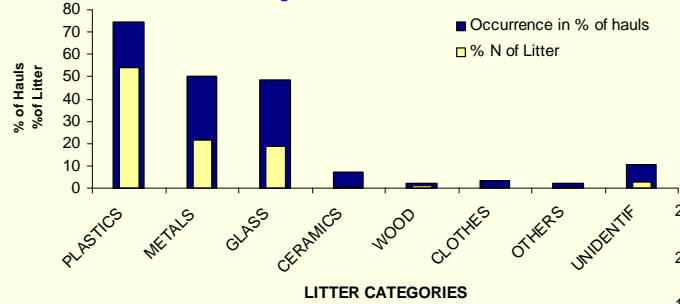


# ANTHROPOGENIC LITTER FROM THE DEEP SEA BOTTOMS OF THE IONIAN SEA (E. MEDITERRANEAN)

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Experimental trawl fishing surveys, carried out in the deep waters of the E. Ionian Sea during 1999-2000, gave the opportunity to study anthropogenic litter from the sea bottom, based on the photos of each haul.

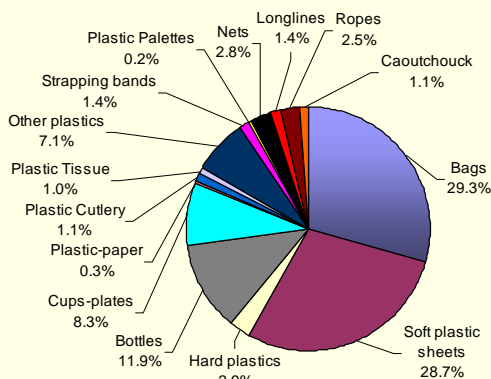


Anthropogenic litter occurred in 87% of the hauls. Eight litter categories were identified. Plastics occurred in 70%, Metals in 50% & Glass in 48% of the hauls. Plastics constituted about 50%, Metals & Glass about 20% of the litter items. Glass litter consisted only of bottles.

The proportions of plastics, glass and metals were decreasing with depth stratum, however, these increased again in the deeper stratum. The density of litter in the whole study area was found 98.2 litter items/km<sup>2</sup>.

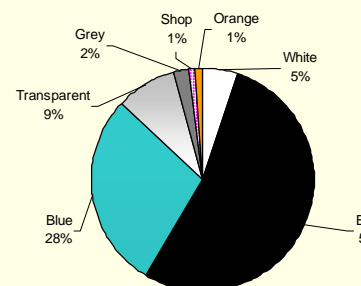


### PLASTIC LITTER COMPOSITION



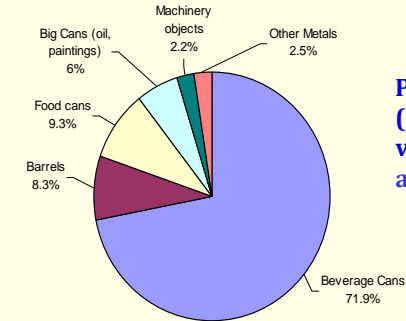
Map of the litter abundance. Most litter items seemed to derive mainly from ships as the higher values coincided with the ship lines in the area.

Plastics consisted mainly of bags and soft plastic sheets (~30%); bottles 14%. Fishing related litter constituted a very low portion. This activity was quite low in the study area.



### PLASTIC BAGS COLOURS

Plastic bags were mainly black (54%) and blue (28%).



### METALLIC LITTER COMPOSITION

Metals consisted mainly of beverage cans (71%).

- Anthropogenic litter was present in almost all hauls.
- Plastics was the dominant category, followed by metals and glass bottles.
- Plastics included mainly bags and soft plastic sheets; Metals mainly beverage cans.
- Most bags were black and blue in color, which in are used for rubbish and made by material that can be recycled.

