

Plastic-Free Oceans



Gannets on Heligoland use pieces of rope and netting to build their nests. Chicks in particular are strangled by them.



In the Fishing for Litter scheme, fishermen can bring litter back to the land without having to pay for its disposal.



Volunteers cleared coasts and shores during the Coastal Clean-up Day in September.



Not a pretty site: after storms in particular, a lot of litter accumulates along the coastline.

The blue rubbish dump

Every year, more than 6.4 million tonnes of waste end up in our oceans. It mostly originates on land, but is also caused by shipping, fishing and off-shore industrial facilities. The majority of this waste is plastic, which causes dramatic ecological and economic consequences:

- Countless marine creatures die. They mistake plastic for food or get caught up in it.
- Plastic is broken down in the water and releases toxic substances in the process. Contaminants and plastic particles accumulate in the marine food web.
- Local authorities have to clean beaches and coast lines at a cost of many million euros.
- Marine litter contaminates the fishermen's hauls and damages nets, propellers and ships' hulls.

Every year, 20,000 tonnes of litter are swept into the North Sea alone, and the burden placed on the Baltic Sea is estimated to be of a similar magnitude in certain regions.

What NABU does

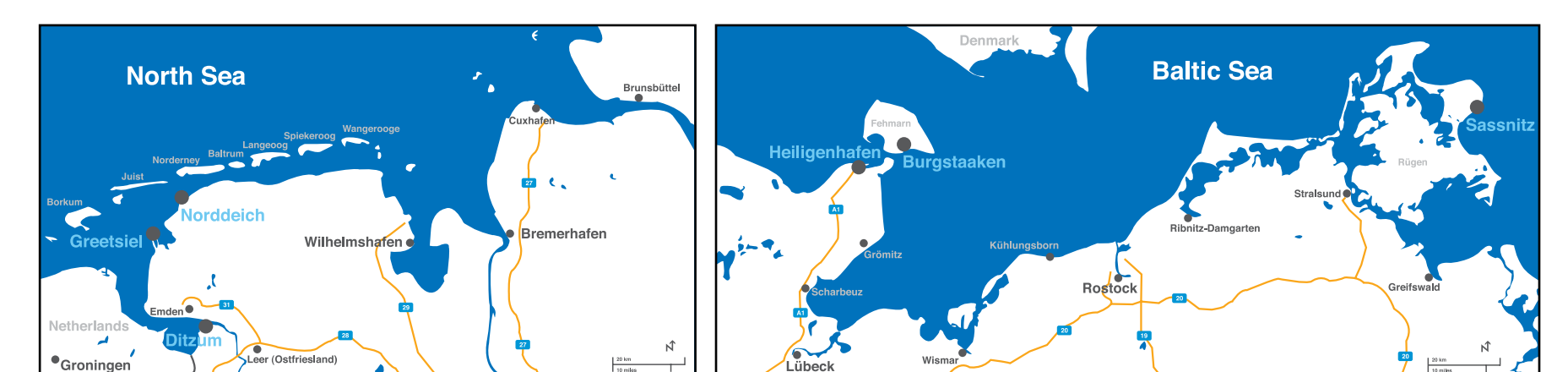
NABU uses its project *Plastic-Free Oceans* to raise awareness of the litter problem and the impact it has. It also organises clean-ups and the monitoring of beach litter, and works with fishermen, waste disposal companies and local authorities to develop ways of cleaning the oceans and coastlines. In addition, NABU lobbies politicians and the industrial sector to encourage them prevent waste and make sustainable use of resources.

www.meere-ohne-plastik.de

Fishing for Litter in Germany

NABU launched the first Fishing for Litter initiative in Germany in the region of Fehmarn-Heiligenhafen in May 2011. At the NABU project ports, the fishermen are given big bags in which to put the litter that gets caught in their nets, for them to bring it back to dry land and have it disposed of free of charge. The composition of the litter fished out of the water is then analysed, as is its reusability. So far, six fishing ports on Germany's North Sea and Baltic coasts have signed up to the initiative, and a further two North Sea ports are due to join in 2013.

www.NABU.de/fishingforlitter

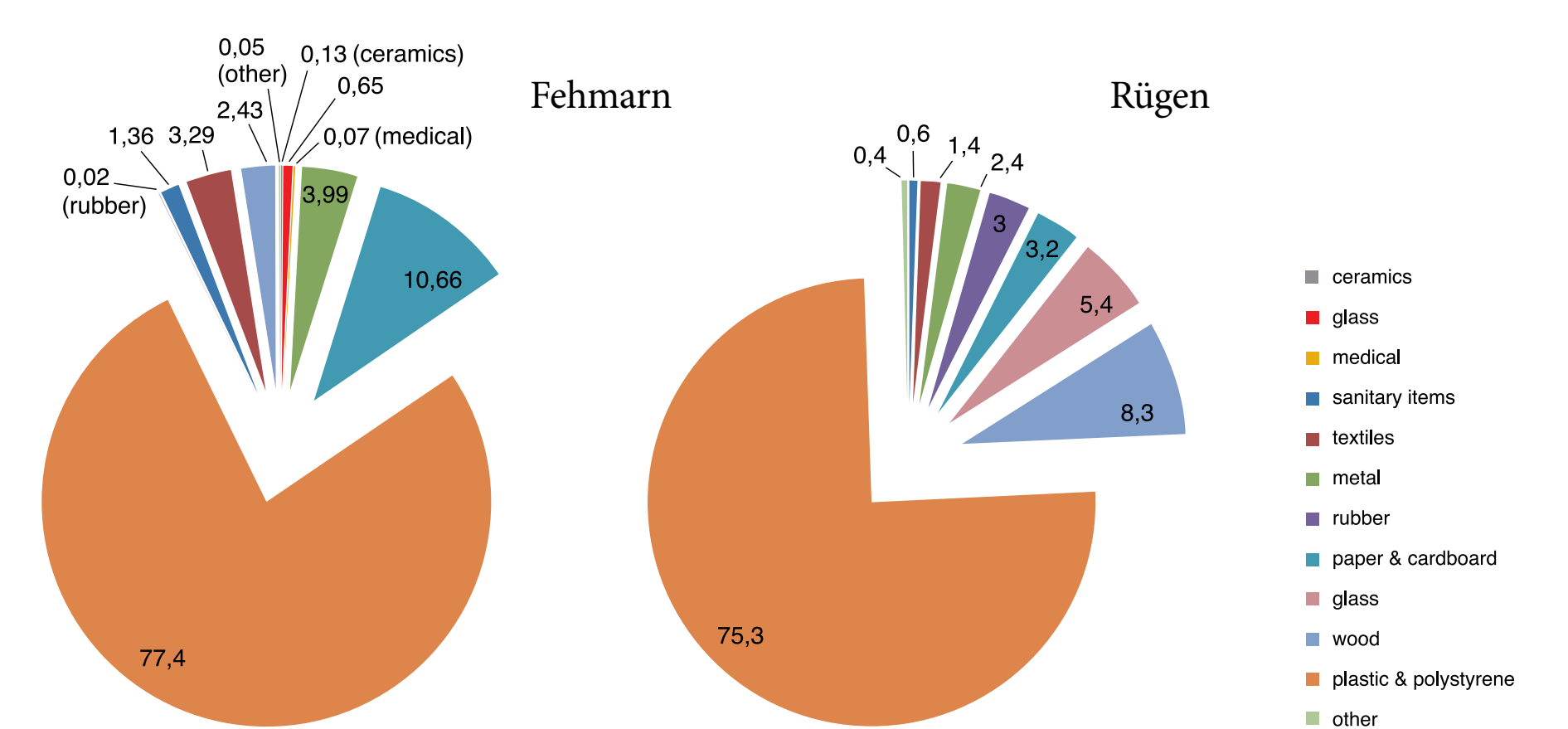


NABU project ports

Cleaning waters and logging data

Clean-ups help to clear the waters of litter and also allow information to be collated on how much litter there is. NABU organises clean-ups and litter monitoring on Germany's coasts. The project *Clean Oceans* initiated by NABU together with the German Scuba Diving Association (VDST), the German Sailing Association (DSV) and the German Canoe Federation (DKV) calls on people to report litter by and in bodies of water and initiate clean-ups.

www.saubere-meere.de



Wash margin monitoring results for the islands Fehmarn and Rügen, 2011/2012

The responsibility of consumers and businesses

Up to 80 per cent of marine litter originates on land. Avoiding waste, recycling and making sustainable use of resources are therefore crucial to combatting the problem of marine litter. NABU strives to make the litter producers more responsible and therefore engages in dialogue with the industrial sector and politicians. It also uses exhibition/film partnerships and education offers for schools to teach people about the plastic problem and to encourage them to change their own consumer behaviour. In addition, NABU contributes its marine protection expertise to national and international specialist groups.

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