

Marine litter targets for European seas



Leo de Vrees
European Commission
DG Environment
Marine Environment and Water
Industry Unit

Targets for Marine Litter

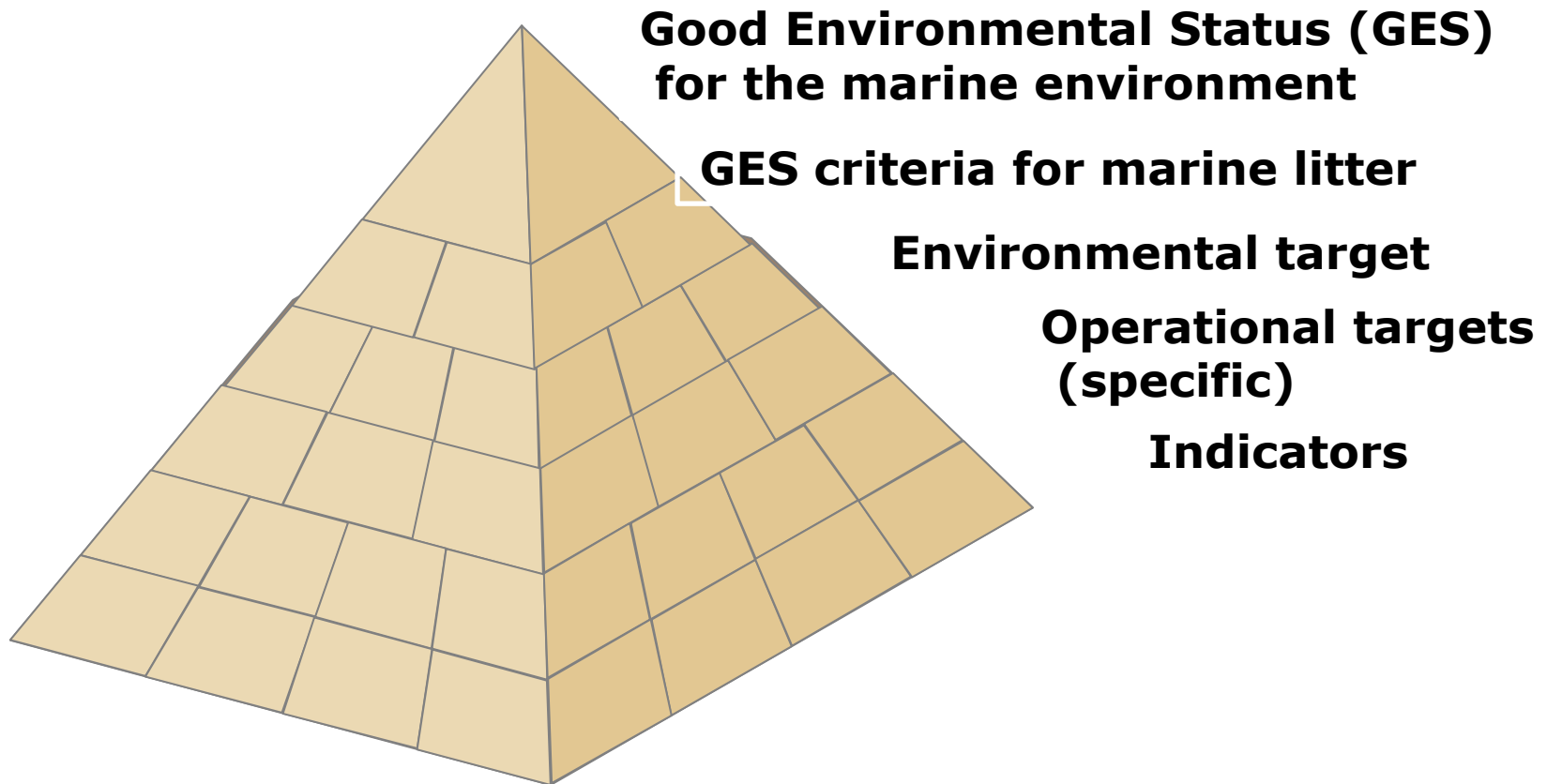
- Qualitative or quantitative statement on desired condition of, and pressure and impacts on, marine waters
- Linked to indicator(s) measuring progress towards Good Environmental Status (GES)

GES for Marine litter:

When marine litter does not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment.



Targets – building blocks for GES



Target setting - examples

- **GES for Marine litter:** when marine litter does not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment
- **Overall target:** XX % reduction for marine litter found on beaches by 2020 (compared to the 2012 initial assessment)
- **Impact related target:** less than 10 % of northern fulmar has more than 0.1 gr plastic in its stomach
- **Operational target:** XX % coverage of beaches with waste bins by 2020
- **Indicator:** number of waste bins per meter recreational beach

Recycling targets

By 2020 (Art. 11 Waste Frame Directive):

- **Achieve** preparation for re-use, recycling of household waste including plastic to **a minimum of overall” 50% by weight.**
- **Achieve** preparation for re-use, recycling and backfilling of 70% construction & demolition waste
- **Separate collection** of at least paper, metal, plastic, glass by 2015

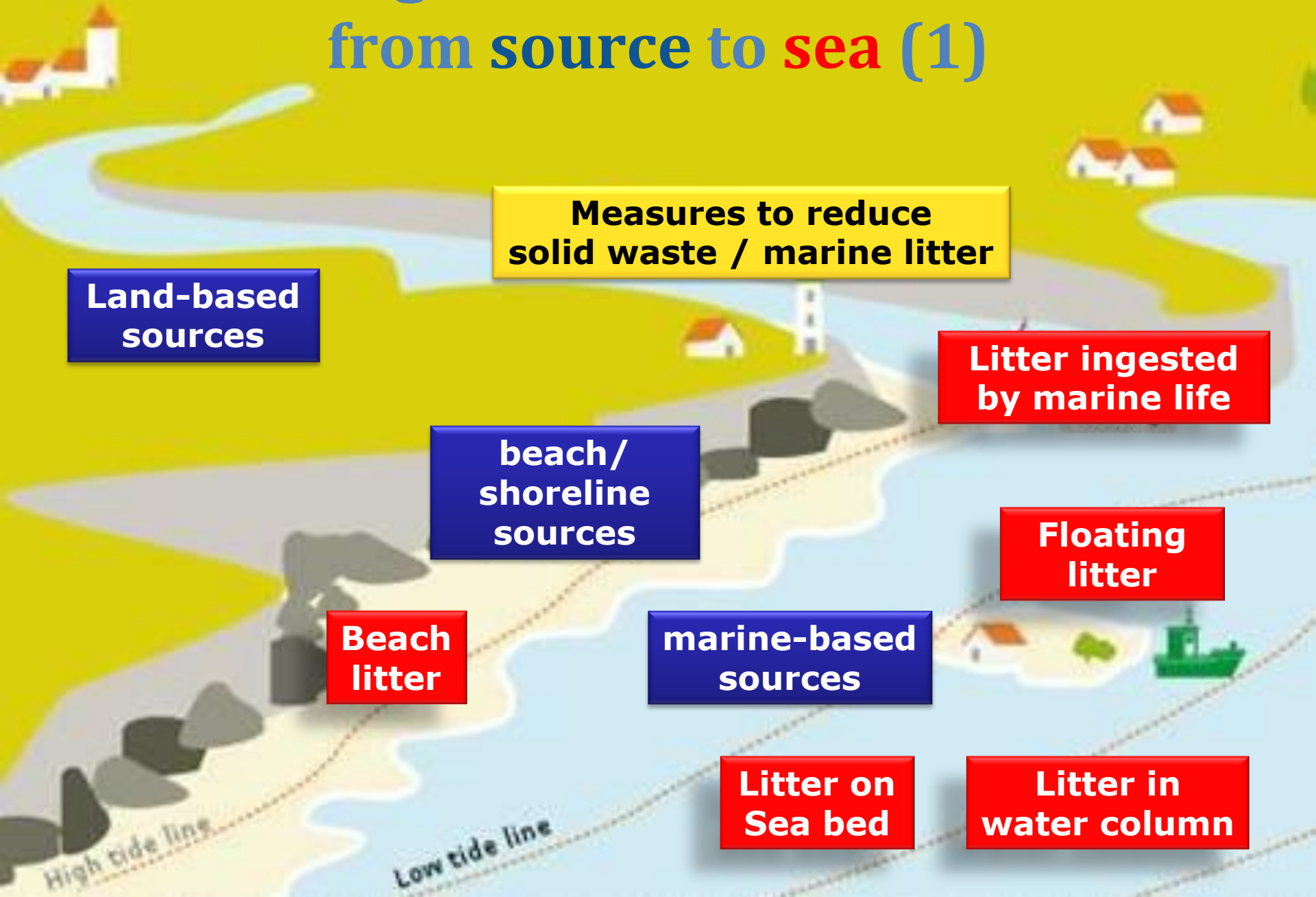
By 2008 (Packaging (waste) directive):

- **Recycling** of 22,5 % of plastic waste

• **Target review foreseen in 2014**



Targets on marine litter: from source to sea (1)



Targets on marine litter: from source to sea (2)

Targets on **TYPE** of marine litter

- Plastic Bottles
- Plastic Bags
- Cigarette Butts
- Cotton Buds
- Cords / Nets
- Food containers

Measures to reduce
solid waste / marine litter

Targets on **SOURCES** of solid waste

- Fly-tipping
- Waste management
- Fisheries
- Recreational boating
- Sanitary waste / sewers

Beach/
reline
sources

Beach
litter

marine-based
sources

litter

Litter on
Sea bed

Litter in
water column

High tide line

Low tide line

Targets on marine litter: from source to sea (3)

Measures to reduce
solid waste / marine litter

Operational targets **on MEASURES** to reduce solid waste / marine litter; **Examples:**

- 100 % collection of shipping waste at Port Reception Facilities
- 95 % of waste properly managed (collection, transport, disposal)
- x % of population reached by awareness-raising campaigns to prevent fly-tipping or disposal of sanitary waste in sewer
- xx % compliant for landfills

litter

sources

**Litter on
Sea bed**

**Litter in
water column**

Commitments & initiatives

AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL - UN

Set targets for marine litter & reduce impact on marine environment

- Rio +20 Declaration
- Honolulu Commitment & Strategy
- MARPOL Convention (Annex V)
- London Convention

IN EUROPE

- MSFD & 7th EAP and other EU Acquis (Waste, PRF)
- Regional Sea Conventions

MSFD reporting

- Assessment ongoing – Targets in Art. 10 reports by MS
- “Première” to first preliminary results:
 - 14 out 22 MS reported reduction targets for marine litter
 - No MS set quantified reduction targets
 - 3 MS set quantified targets on ‘plastic in Fulmars stomachs’

MSFD Reporting Targets for marine litter

Measures to reduce
solid waste / marine litter

1 MS – improved waste management
1 MS – behavioural change

Land-based
sources

3 MS – waste in
sewers & rivers

beach/
shoreline
sources

1 MS

Beach
litter

6 MS

marine-based
sources

1 MS

Litter on
Sea bed

Litter ingested
by marine life

3 MS - Fulmar

Floating litter

1 MS

Litter in
water column

High tide line

Low tide line

EU Marine litter target purpose

- *Set target at EU wide level to provide political impetus needed to set the EU on course to achieve MSFD objective and Rio+20 commitment*
- *It can also act as a driver for other policy fields such as waste legislation*
- *It increases the coherence between national efforts of Member States*
- *It helps to raise stakeholder awareness of the marine litter problem*

Good practices for target setting

- Be more specific at regional sea level, depending on the source
- Combine overall target + set of operational targets
- Cover major sources, sectors, locations and types of solid waste and marine litter
- Targets can also be set on 'social' aspects, including
 - Performance of specific measures
 - Change in human behaviour
 - Change in governance

Questions for breakout groups

Statement: an EU wide quantitative marine reduction target will help to facilitate commitments by policy makers.

1. What is the added value to set an overall EU quantitative reduction target on marine litter?
2. What type of targets would be a good overall target? Is “beach litter” a good candidate to base the overall target on?
3. What are the main concerns regarding target setting?
4. How to overcome these concerns?



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine>



Thank you for your attention!