



OSPAR
COMMISSION

*Protecting and conserving
the North-East Atlantic
and its resources*



PAME Marine Litter Workshop:

OSPAR's Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

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OSPAR Mandate: Annex V of the Convention

Contracting Parties shall:

- a. take the necessary measures to protect and conserve the ecosystems and the biological diversity of the maritime area, and to restore, where practicable, marine areas which have been adversely affected; and
- b. cooperate in adopting programmes and measures for those purposes for the control of the human activities...

The North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy

“develop appropriate programmes and measures to reduce amounts of litter in the marine environment and to stop litter entering the marine environment, both from sea-based and land-based sources”



OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, 2014

- OSPAR common actions
- Actions to engage with other competent bodies
- National Actions to be implemented by Contracting Parties





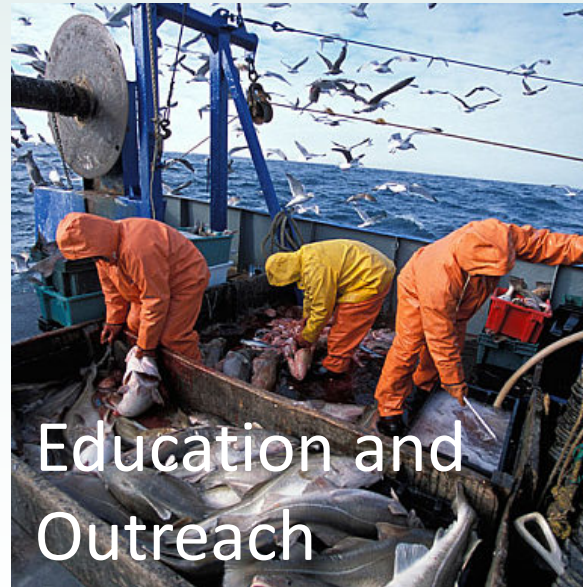
Sea-based sources



Land-based sources



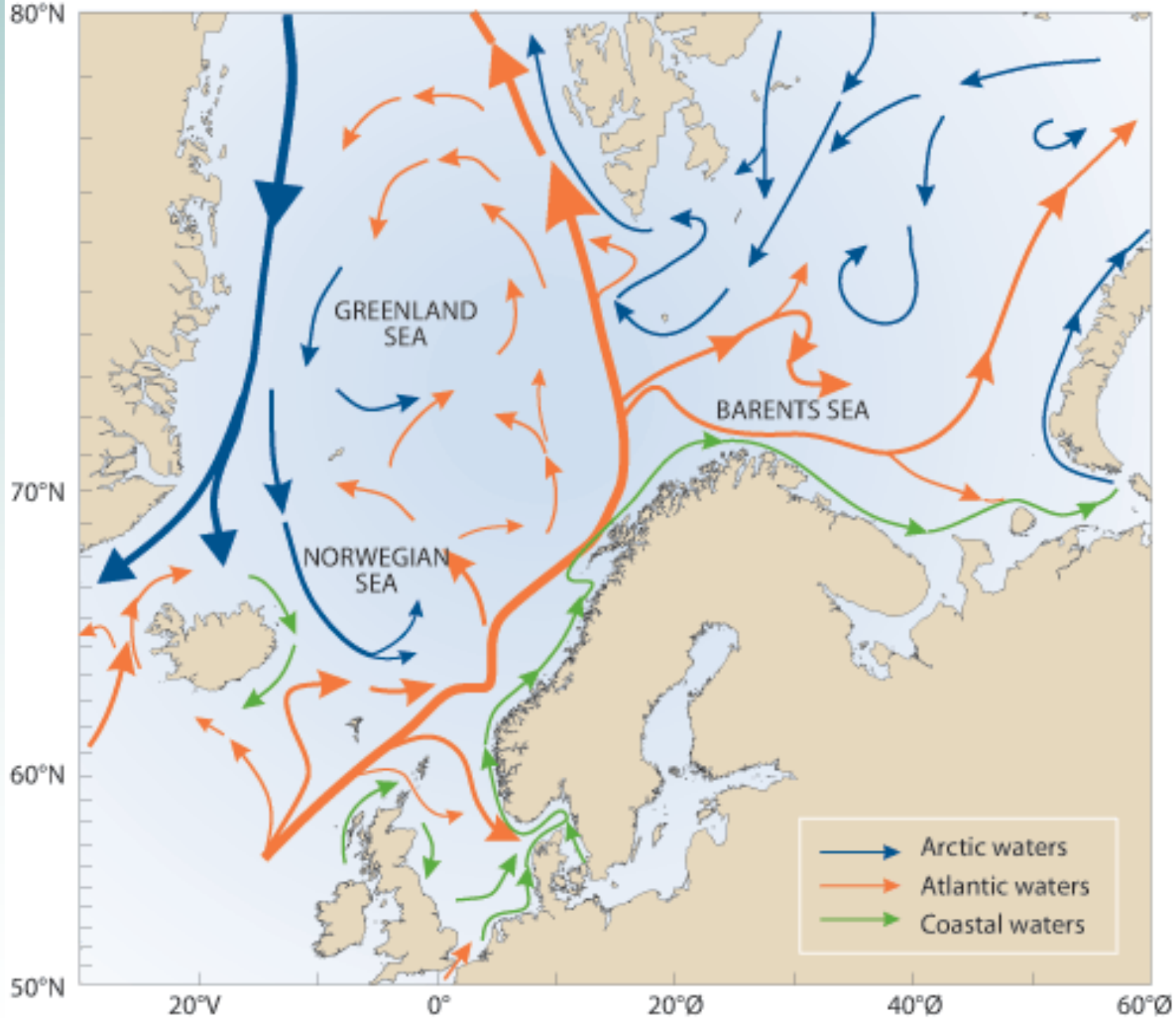
Removal actions



Education and Outreach

Key Action Areas

- Port Reception Facilities
- Waste from Fishing industry
- Fines for littering at sea
- Fishing for Litter
- Abandoned and lost Fishing gear
- Floating Litter hotspots
- Education and outreach
- Improved waste management
- Sewage/stormwater run-off
- Reduction of single use items
- Removal of micro plastics from products/zero pellet loss
- Redesign of harmful products



Common problems needs common actions

Implements Contracting Parties' international obligations



Removal Actions: Fishing for Litter

- Removed over 2500 tonnes of marine litter
- Over 500 vessels currently involved
- Fishermen involved:
 - 30% less likely to litter
 - 40% more likely to take litter ashore

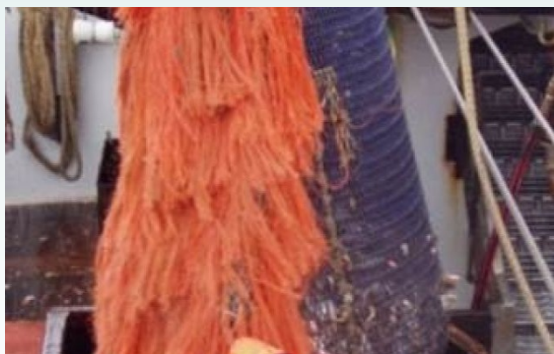


Microplastics in cosmetic products

Engage with all appropriate sectors (manufacturing, retail etc.) to explore the possibility of a voluntary agreement to phase out the use of micro plastics as a component in personal care and cosmetic products.



Other sources of microplastics



Evaluate all products and processes that include primary micro plastics and act, if appropriate, to reduce their impact on the marine environment.

Actions Under Development



- Best practice aiming at zero pellet loss
- Reduction of single use items
- Environmental Education for Fishermen
- Reduction of waste and ADLFG from fishing industry

Monitoring required to assess effectiveness of measures

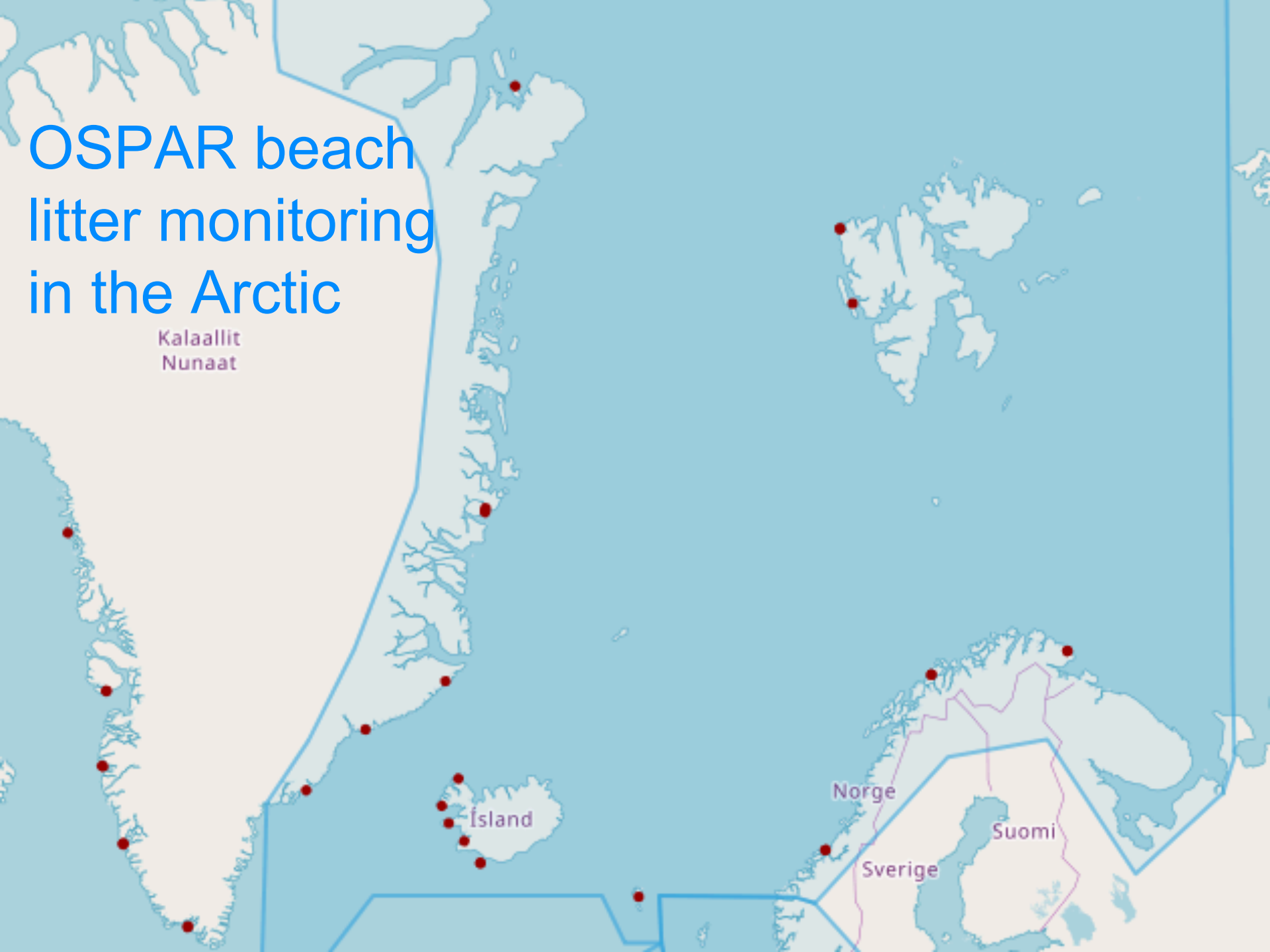
- Beach Litter
- Seabed litter
- Plastic particles in Fulmars stomachs

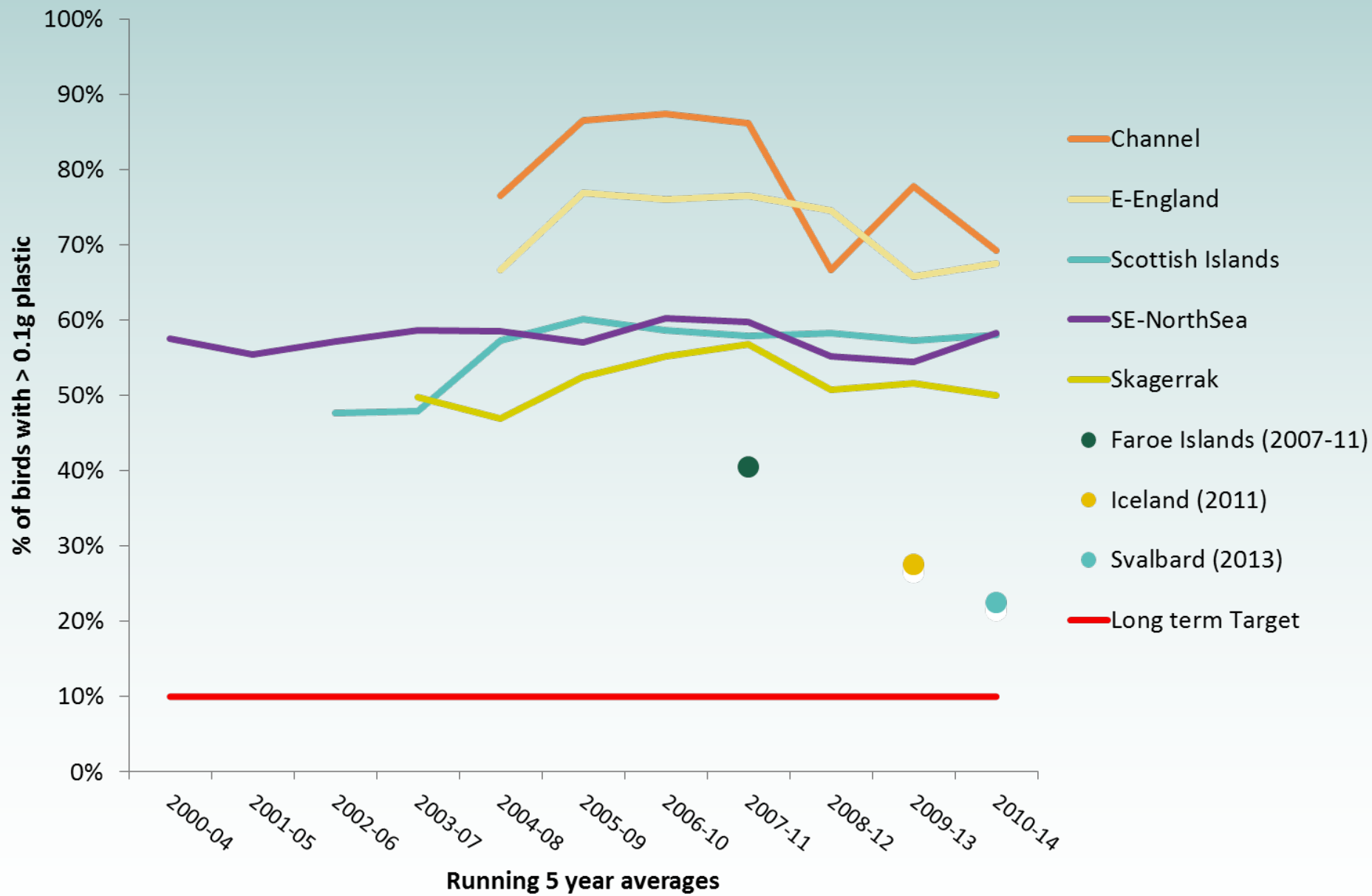
In development:

- Microplastics
- Plastic particles in turtles stomachs



OSPAR beach litter monitoring in the Arctic





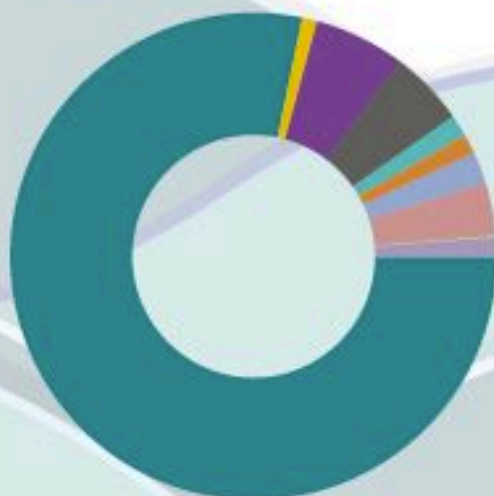
Marine litter composition by material



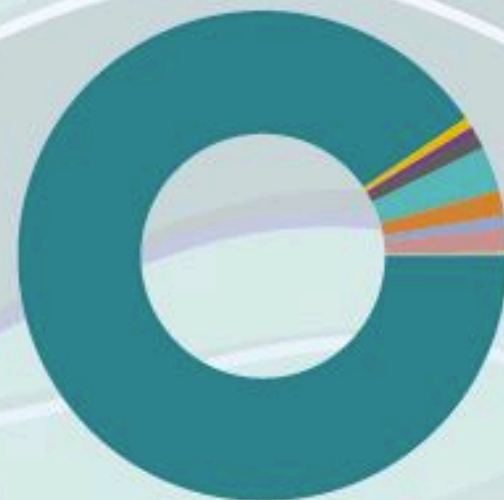
Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast



Celtic Seas



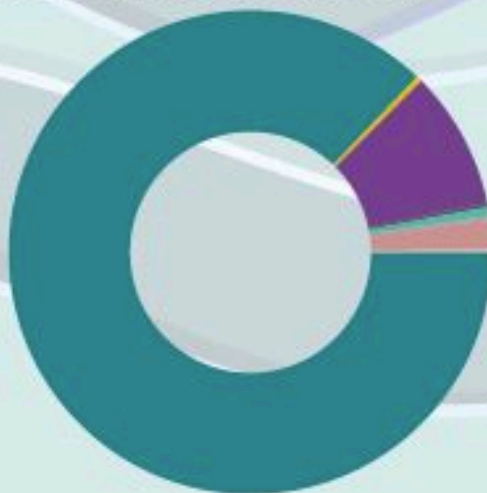
Southern North Sea



Arctic Waters



Northern North Sea



Recommendations

- Regional approach to measures amplifies national actions by coordinating efforts
- Jointly addresses international obligations (e.g. UN, IMO, EU, etc.)
- Due to transport of marine litter coordinated monitoring essential to assess effectiveness of measures

