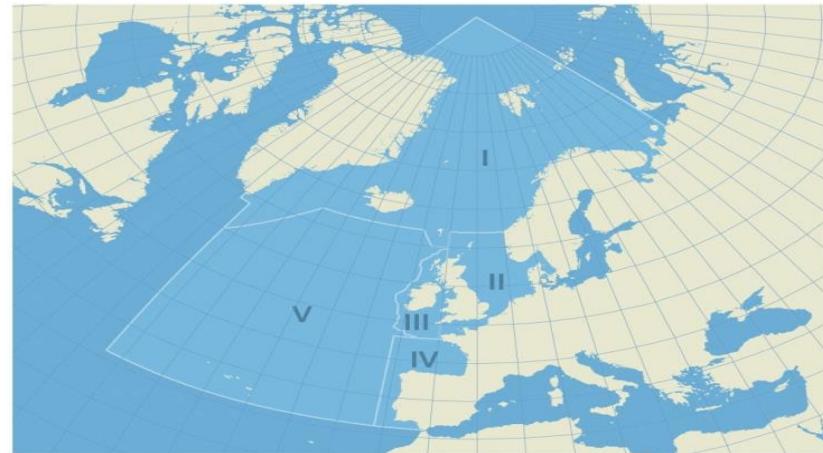
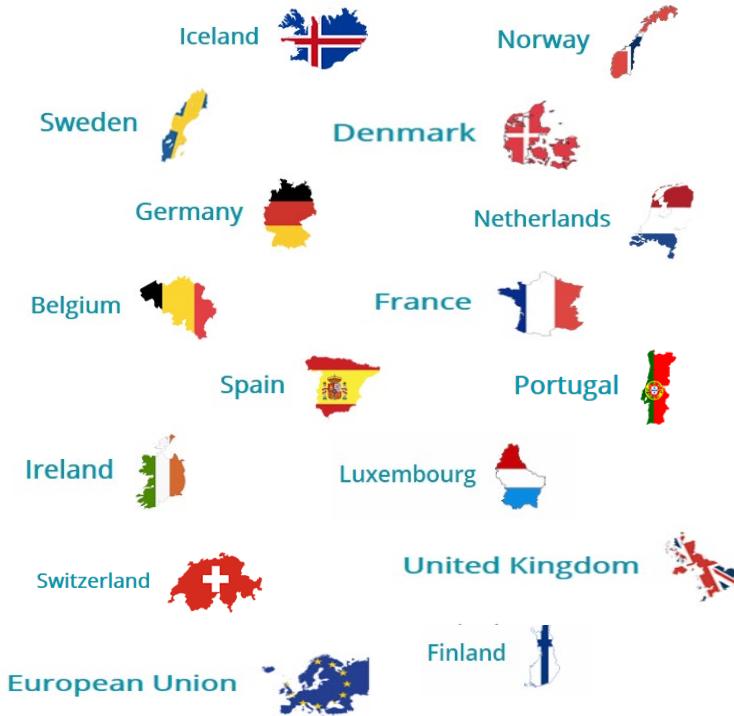


OSPAR's work on ALDFG in the light of its North-East Atlantic Strategy and the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2022-2030

OSPAR ICG ML 2026 | Stefanie Werner
German Environment Agency (UBA) | stefanie.werner@uba.de

PAME Workshop on improving fishing gear waste management
on board fishing vessels operating in the Arctic
27-28 January 2026

OSPAR Contracting Parties



OSPAR Maritime Area and Regions:

Region I: Arctic Waters

Region II: Greater North Sea

Region III: Celtic Seas

Region IV: Bay of Biscay / Iberian Coast

Region V: Wider Atlantic

Obligations under the OSPAR Convention

Articles 3 and 5 and Annexes I and III require Contracting Parties to take, individually and jointly, all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from land-based and offshore sources in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

Annex V on the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area makes it a duty of the OSPAR Commission to draw up programmes and measures for the control of the human activities identified by the application of the criteria in Appendix 3;





North-East Atlantic Strategy 2030 Strategic Objective 4 (out of 12)

Prevent inputs of and significantly reduce marine litter, including microplastics, in the marine environment to reach levels that do not cause adverse impacts to the marine and coastal environment with the ultimate aim of eliminating inputs of litter.

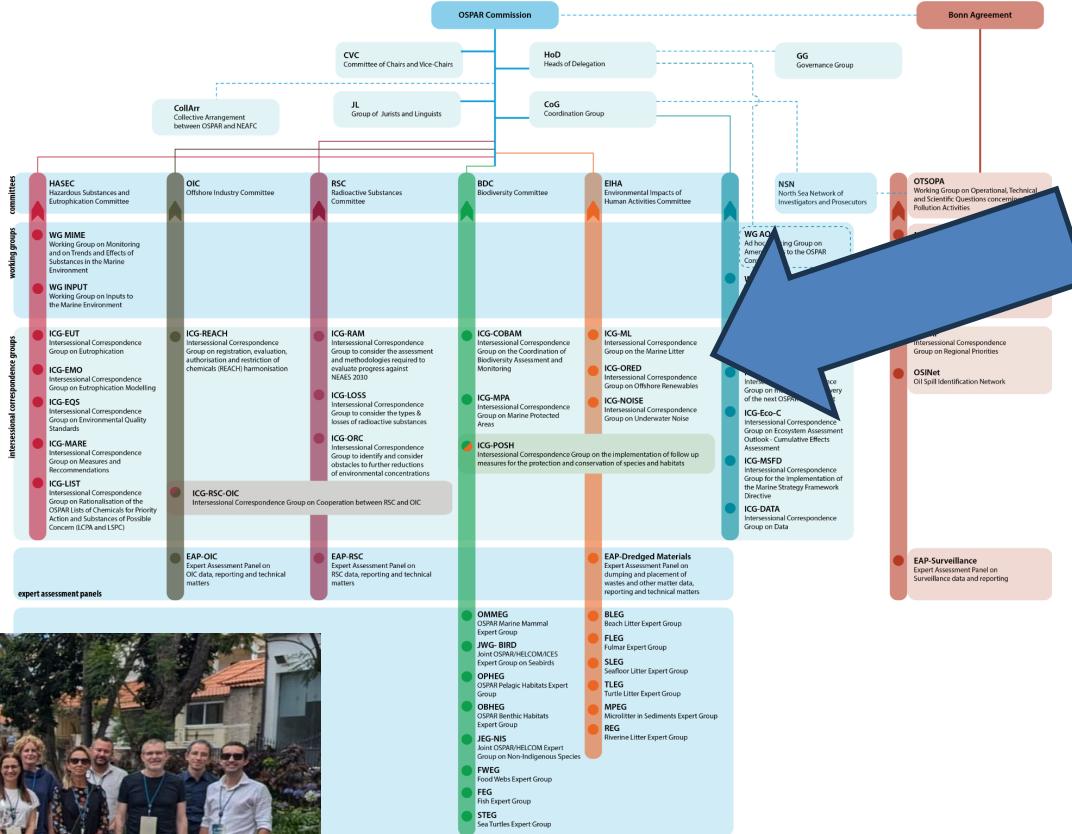
8 Operational objectives including targets for reducing marine litter



© Wolf Wiechmann

- to develop and implement measures to substantially reduce marine litter from fishing and aquaculture gear by 2025 and determine the need for and where appropriate adopt, targets or other actions for the separate collection of end-of-life fishing and aquaculture gear by 2027.
- to reduce commonly found single-use plastic items and maritime-related plastic items on beaches by at least 50% by 2025 and by at least 75% by 2030, compared to a 2016 baseline; and
- a 70% reduction in the prevalence of all marine litter on beaches by 2030;

The OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group Marine Litter consists of country experts that together work on monitoring of marine litter, conduct assessments, develop background documents, actions plans and measures to take collective action to combat marine litter.



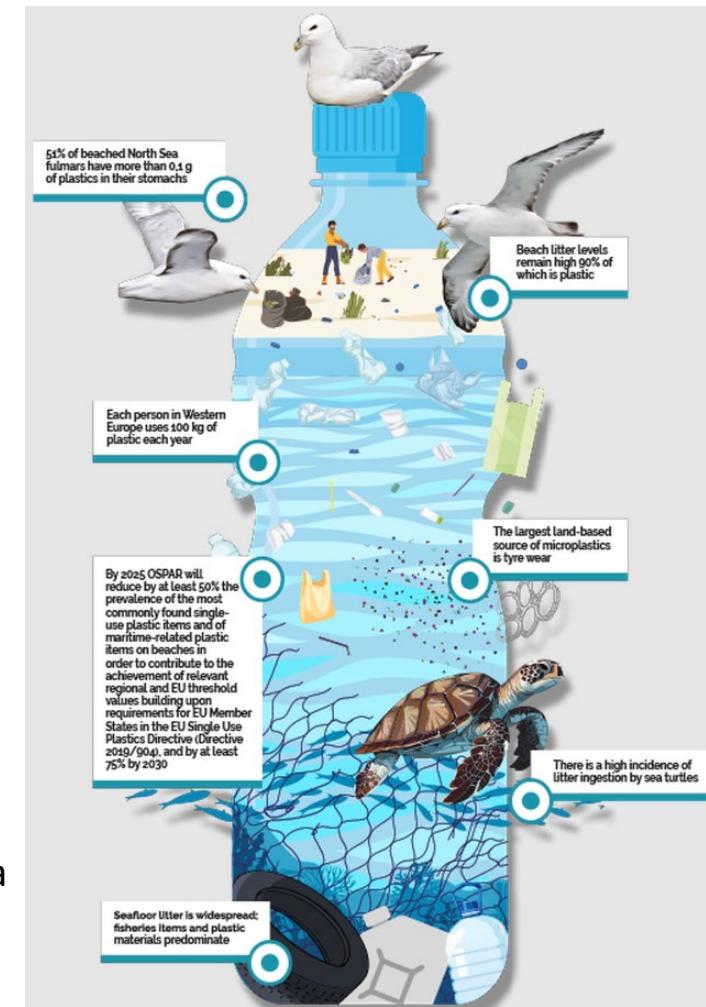
OSPAR's Quality Status Report 2023

Marine Litter Thematic Assessment, building on results of indicator assessments:

- OSPAR Beach Litter Assessment
- OSPAR Seafloor Litter Assessment
- OSPAR Floating Litter Assessment (Litter Ingested by Fulmars)
- Provisional results from other OSPAR assessments (turtle entanglement and development of microplastics in sediment)

Plus Other Assessments on:

- Impacts of marine litter on biota in the OSPAR Maritime Area
- Production and consumption of plastics



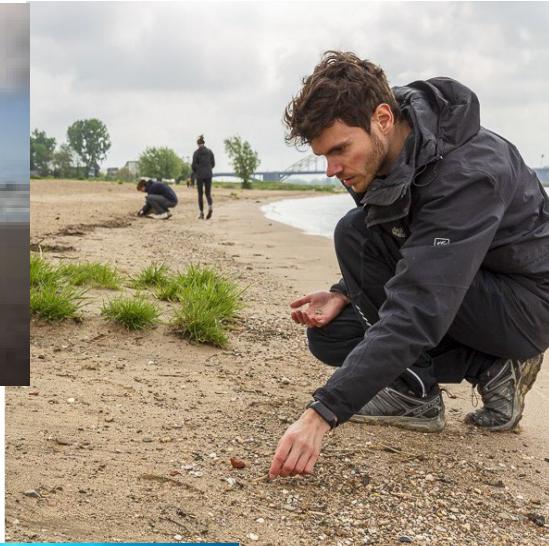
Additional Core Indicators adopted or in development



Microplastics in sediments



Mesoplastics/pellets in sediments



Microplastics in biota



Plastic particles in stomachs of Cory Shearwaters



Ingestion of plastic litter by turtles

Riverine litter: River banks and floating

OSPAR's Second Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML 2)



Annex 1- Action Overview Table			
Theme A: Actions to reduce land-based sources of marine litter			
Action Number	Action Title	Lead & Support	Completion status
A.3.1	Prevent and reduce plastic waste by coastal municipalities and cities	Germany	
A.3.2	Prevent the release of bio-carrers to the marine and marine environment	Sweden and France Support from Surfrider	
A.3.2	Reduce marine-litter losses in wastewater treatment systems	France	
A.3.3	Monitor, prevent and reduce inputs of marine litter to the marine environment and share knowledge on micro-litter monitoring	France, Belgium, Netherlands Support from Germany and KIMO	
A.4.1	Define measures and strategies for the phasing out or restriction of use of single-use plastics prone to become marine litter in compliance with the EU SUPI Directive	France and Seas at Risk Support from Denmark and Netherlands	
A.4.2	Reduce the impact of expanded polyethylene and extruded polypropylene (EPP / XPP) in the marine environment - development of EU SUPI Directive	Portugal Support from Denmark	
A.5.1	Prevent inputs of microplastics from selected land-based sources in the marine environment	Germany Support from Netherlands and Seas At Risk	
A.5.2	Reduce microplastic contamination from artificial grass	KIMO and United Kingdom Support from Norway and Sweden	
Theme B: Actions to reduce sea-based sources of marine litter			
B.1.1	Harmonise practices related to the provision and use of Port Reception Facilities	Belgium Support from Netherlands, Portugal and KIMO	
B.1.2	Reduce microplastics from ship greywater discharges	Lead: IBC SAR can support	
B.2.1	Manage end-of-life recreational vessels	United Kingdom Support from Belgium and Sweden	
B.3.1	Identify the need for measures to reduce the unintentional release of microplastics from bottom paint, anti-fouling paint and other marine coatings used by [commercial] marine vessels	Lead IBC	

RAP ML 2

Objectives and scope

Objectives

The RAP ML 2 serves as the main instrument to deliver [MEAS 2020](#) strategic objective 4 and the related 8 operational objectives on marine litter through a programme of coordinated collective actions. It will be implemented between 2022 and 2030, matching the time-frame of the NEAAs.

Strategic Objective 4: Prevent inputs of and significantly reduce marine litter, including microplastics, to reach levels that do not cause adverse effects to the marine and coastal environment with the ultimate aim of eliminating inputs of litter.

Supporting operational objectives:

S4.01: By 2022 OSPAR will agree an updated Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter including a set of prioritised [SMARTP](#) objectives to address new and emerging issues and to reduce the impacts of those items causing most harm to the marine environment.

S4.02: By 2023 OSPAR will improve the evidence base on harm in relation to marine litter with the aim of developing and agreeing actions and measures to reduce harm by 2025.

S4.03: By 2025 OSPAR will reduce by at least 50% the presence of the most commonly found single-use plastic items and of maritime-related plastic items on beaches in and EU threshold values building upon requirements for EU Member States in the [EU Single Use Plastic Directive 2020](#).

S4.04: By 2025 OSPAR will develop additional regionally coordinated quantitative reduction targets for all marine litter on beaches, and as soon as possible for other relevant environmental compartments, taking account of relevant regional and EU threshold values.

S4.05: By 2025 OSPAR will adopt programmes and measures to control and, where appropriate, phase out plastic from materials placed at sea for the purposes of marine infrastructure developments.

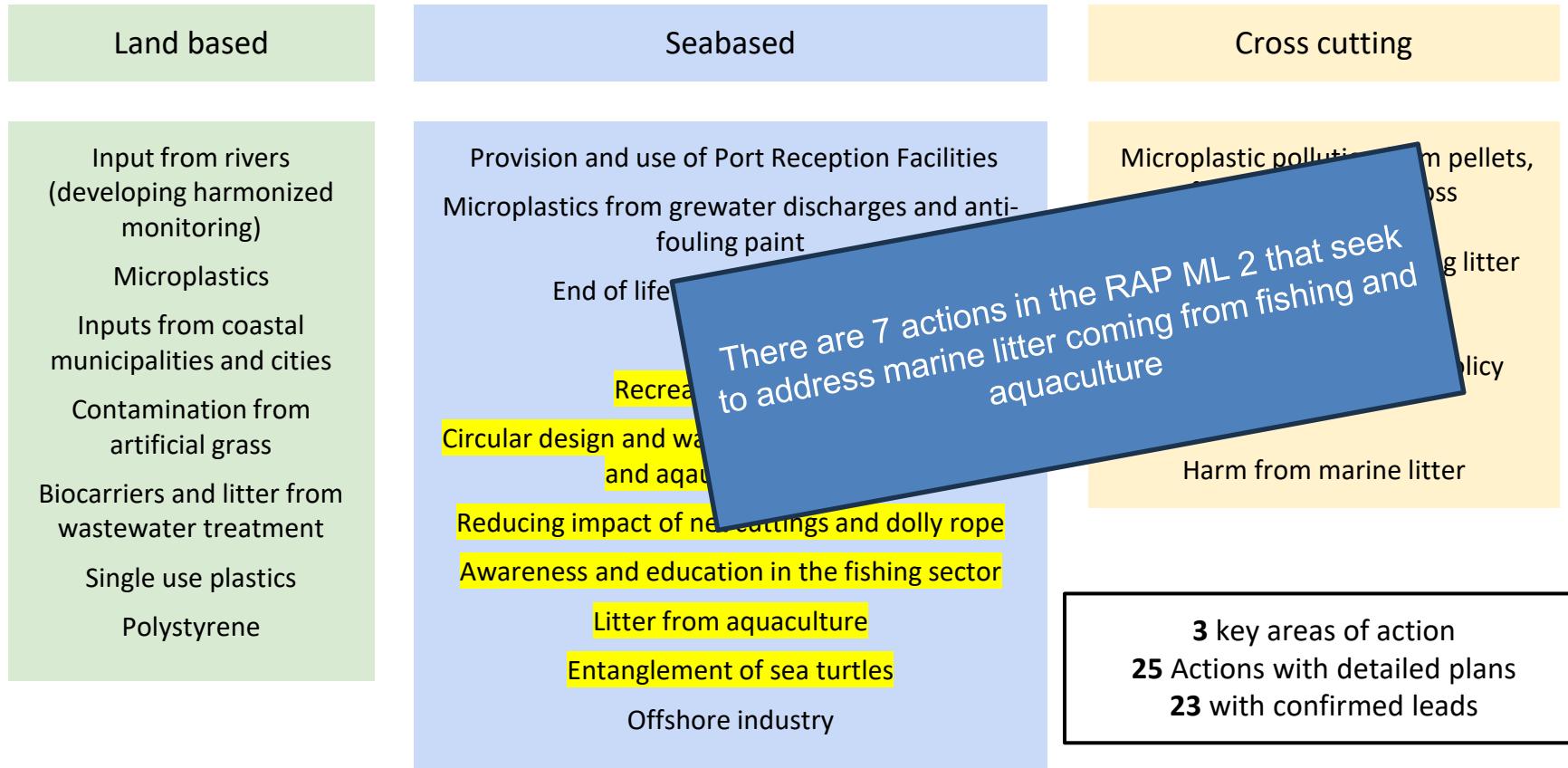
S4.06: By 2027 OSPAR will develop measures to control and, where possible, phase out discharges of plastic substances, including microplastics, contained in chemicals from offshore sources.

S4.07: By 2025 OSPAR will develop approaches to prevent and reduce riverine marine litter inputs in cooperation with the relevant international river or river basin commission and other appropriate authorities and organisations.

S4.08: By 2025 OSPAR will develop and implement measures to substantially reduce marine litter from fishing and aquaculture. In collaboration with those sectors, as appropriate, and by 2027 will determine the need for, and where appropriate, adopt, targets or other actions for the separate collection of end-of-life fishing and aquaculture gear coherent with relevant EU directives and the update of the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

www.ospar.org

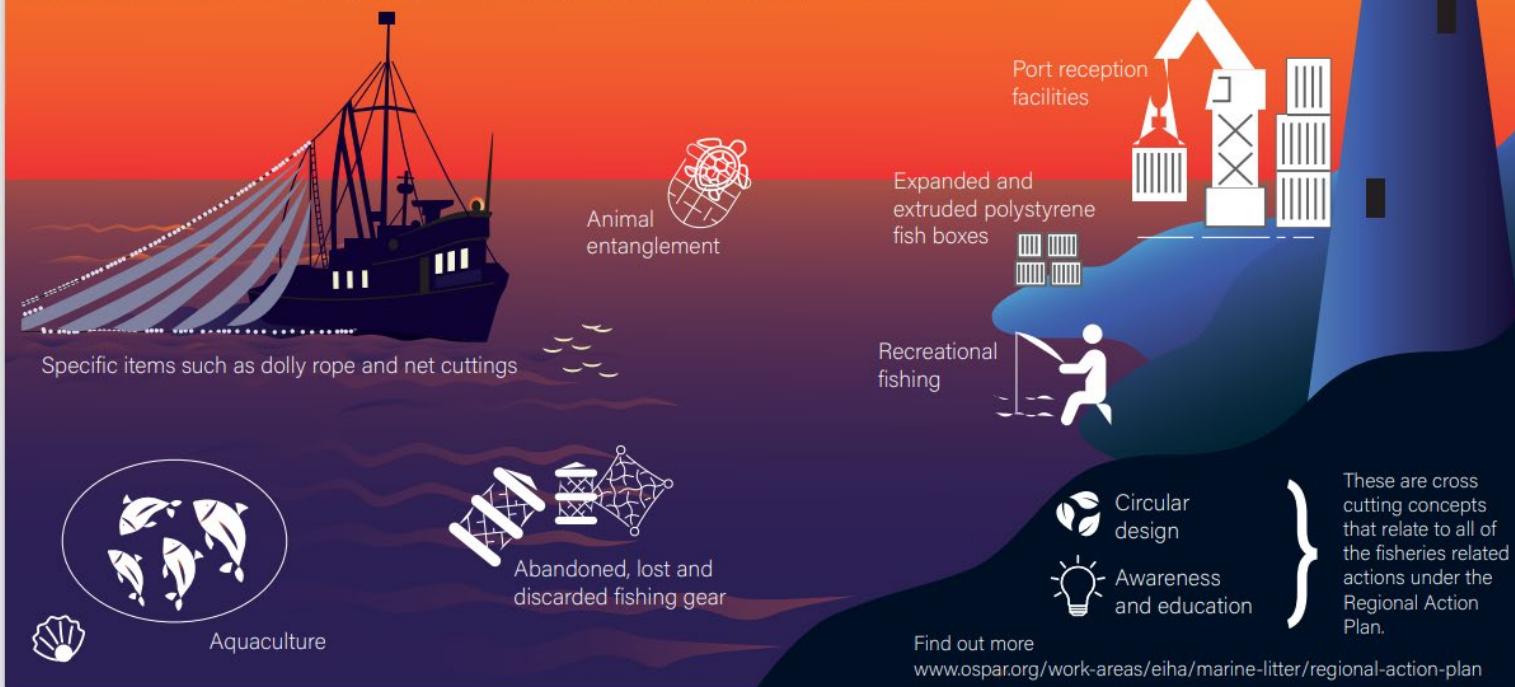
Kind of actions



Addressing marine litter from fisheries and aquaculture in the North-East Atlantic

OSPAR assessments show that fishing and aquaculture are important sources of marine litter in the North-East Atlantic. Through its Regional Action Plan, OSPAR is committed to reducing these sources of litter and their impacts by taking measures and other appropriate action across the interconnected aspects of the fisheries lifecycle, from gear design to recycling and waste management.

Fisheries in the North-East Atlantic are regulated through a combination of different arrangements. These include national policies and regulations, the EU Common Fisheries Policy, bilateral and multilateral agreements between countries with shared stocks, and measures adopted by the three regional fisheries management organisations: NEAFC, ICCAT, and NASCO. OSPAR fully recognises the competence of these authorities to regulate fisheries and informs them when it considers action is needed to protect and conserve the North-East Atlantic in relation to fisheries.



Fishing related actions in the OSPAR RAP ML 2 - outputs

- Technical output: Gap analysis on the application of FAO's voluntary guidelines for marking of fishing gear in the OSPAR maritime area.
- Technical output: Entanglement of sea turtles in the Eastern Atlantic. State of play (2024).
- Report of the EU-OSPAR JOINT WORKSHOP: Implementing measures to reduce marine litter from fishing gear, focusing on end-of-life and waste fishing gear policy Brussels, 22-23 March 2024, Brussels.
- Agreement 2019-08: OSPAR Guidelines for the Implementation of the OSPAR Strategy for Sustainable Education Programmes for Fishers.
- OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of OSPAR Strategy for Sustainable Education Programmes for Fishers.
- OSPAR Recommendation 2024/01 on the management of expanded polystyrene (EPS) and extruded polystyrene (XPS) fish boxes in the North Sea, to prevent release of EPS/XPS into the marine environment.
- And more to come...Have a look at:

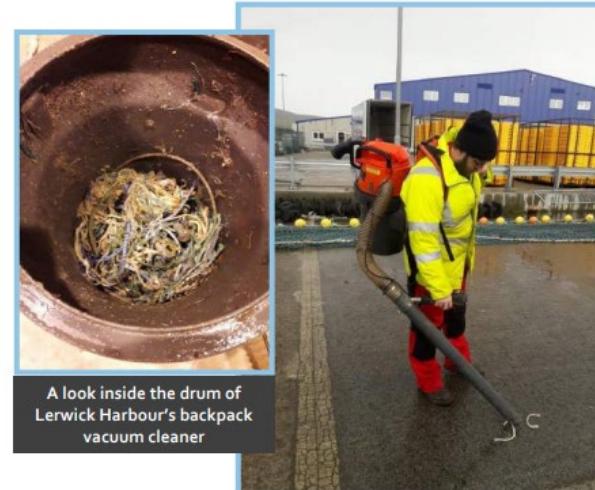
A long list, too much to read out loud

<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/marine-litter/regional-action-plan>

Best practises for a cleaner sea

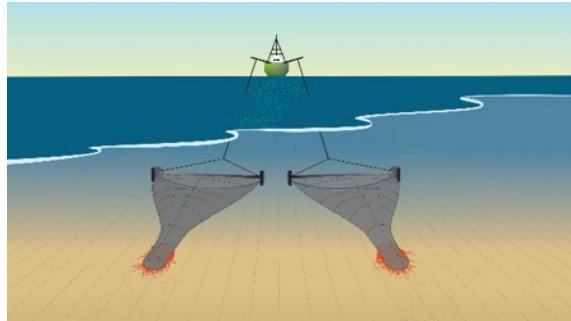
- Recommendation on the application of best practice for reducing marine litter in the OSPAR Maritime Area ([Recommendation 2025/02](#)) adopted in 2025
- Best practices include programmes and measures that could be taken by Contracting Parties
- Now need to report on what they have done to implement these best environmental practices.
- Reporting against this Recommendation will help Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under the convention in ensuring that once developed, best practices can be made accessible and easily used.

- Best practices examples:
 - Reducing the loss or leakage of plastic biomedia from wastewater treatment plants;
 - Reducing net cuttings – in development -
https://www.ospar.org/site/assets/files/45415/action_36_net_cuttings_best_practice_guide.pdf



Measure on Dolly Ropes

- Background Document on the use of chafing gear with a focus on dolly ropes as a source of marine litter in the OSPAR Maritime Area published in 2025
- Recommendation in development on the phase out of the use of dolly ropes as chafing gear and to encourage the use of appropriate alternatives in fisheries in development
- Considerations to develop a legally binding measure once alternatives are available



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Lessons learned so far

- There is no one off solution to tackle fishing related litter;
- There are various sources that need different strategies;
- Important to look at the issue in a holistic way;
- Communication and cooperation with the fishing sector is key;
- Harmonized approaches with other bodies/organizations in charge and related legal obligations needed.



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Thanks for your attention!
Any questions?

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