

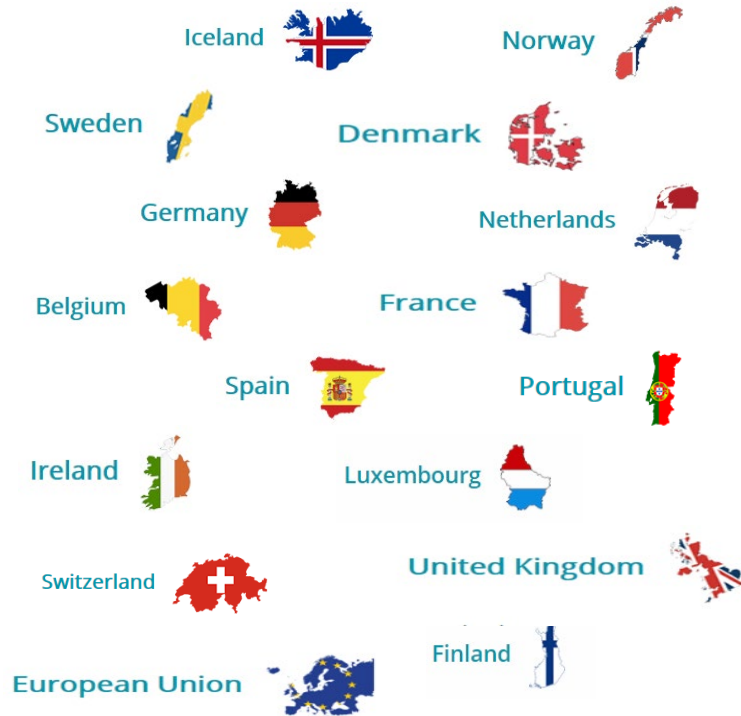


## OSPAR's work on ALDFG in the light of its North-East Atlantic Strategy and the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2022-2030

**OSPAR ICG ML 2026** | Stefanie Werner  
German Environment Agency (UBA) | [stefanie.werner@uba.de](mailto: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.

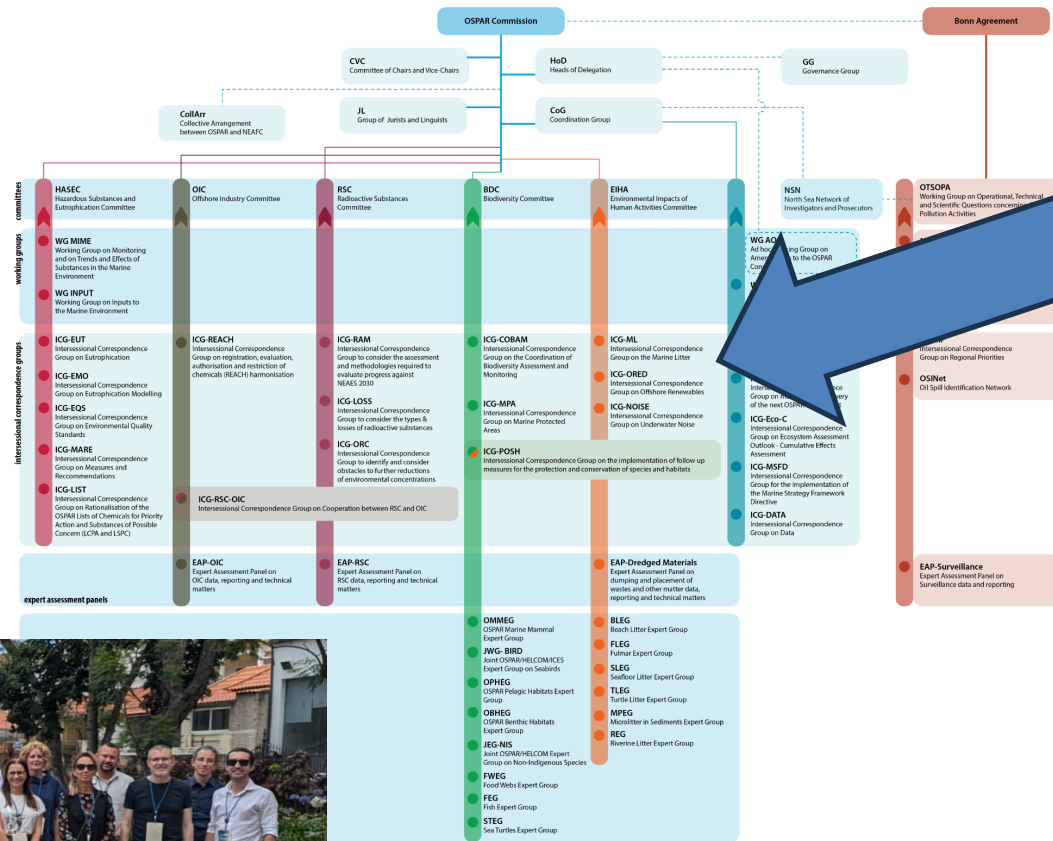
## 8 Operational objectives including targets for reducing marine litter



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- 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;
- 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.

The **OSPAR Interseasonal 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.



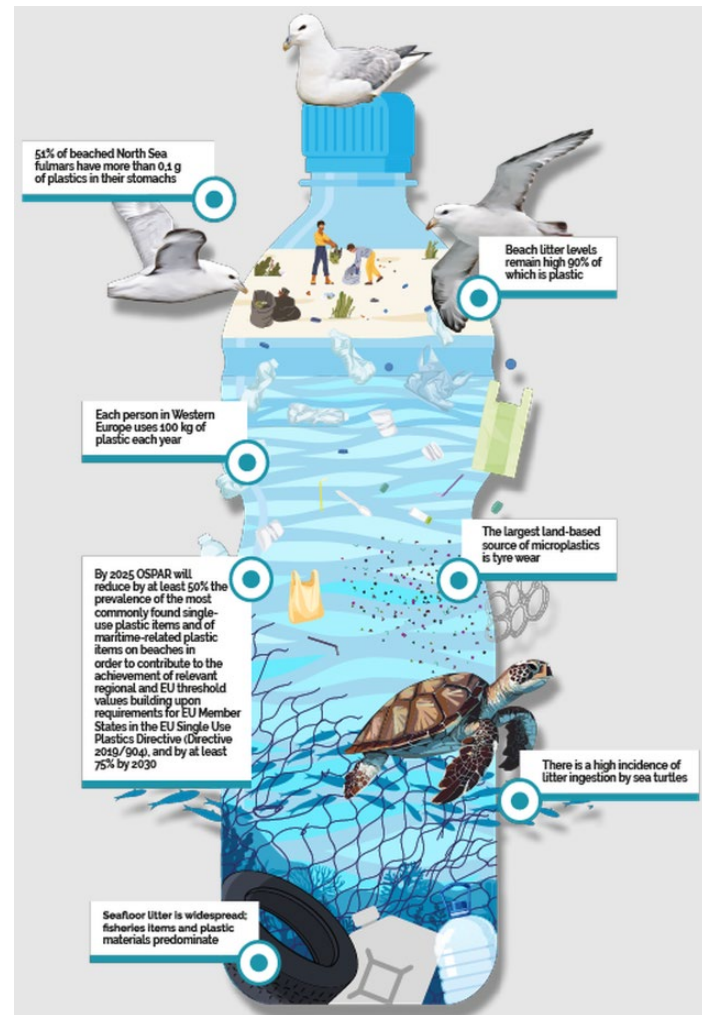
# OSPAR's Quality Status Report 2023

## 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



Riverine litter: River banks and floating

Microplastics in biota



Plastic particles in stomachs of Cory Shearwaters



Ingestion of plastic litter by turtles



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



THE SECOND OSPAR REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER

### Annex 1- Action Overview Table

Action Number	Action Title	Lead & Support	Completion status
<b>Theme A: Actions to reduce land-based sources of marine litter</b>			
A.3.1	Prevent and reduce plastic waste by coastal municipalities and cities	Germany	
A.3.2	Prevent the release of litter carriers to the marine and marine environment	Sweden and France Support from Surfrider	
A.3.3	Reduce macro-litter losses in wastewater treatment systems	France	
A.3.4	Monitor, prevent and reduce marine inputs of macro-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 complement to the EU SUP Directive	France and Seas at Risk Support from Denmark and Netherlands	
A.4.2	Reduce the impact of expanded polystyrene and extruded polystyrene (EPS / XPS) in the marine environment - development of OSPAR products	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	
<b>Theme B: Actions to reduce sea-based sources of marine litter</b>			
B.1.1	Harmless 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: UK 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 resulting from paint, anti-fouling paint and other marine coatings used by [commercial] marine vessels	Lead: UK	

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# Kind of actions

## Land based

Input from rivers  
(developing harmonized  
monitoring)

Microplastics

Inputs from coastal  
municipalities and cities

Contamination from  
artificial grass

Biocarriers and litter from  
wastewater treatment

Single use plastics

Polystyrene

## Seabased

Provision and use of Port Reception Facilities

Microplastics from greywater discharges and anti-  
fouling paint

End of life

Recreation

Circular design and waste management  
and aquaculture

Reducing impact of net-catchings and dolly rope

Awareness and education in the fishing sector

Litter from aquaculture

Entanglement of sea turtles

Offshore industry

## Cross cutting

Microplastic pollution from pellets, loss

g litter

policy

Harm from marine litter

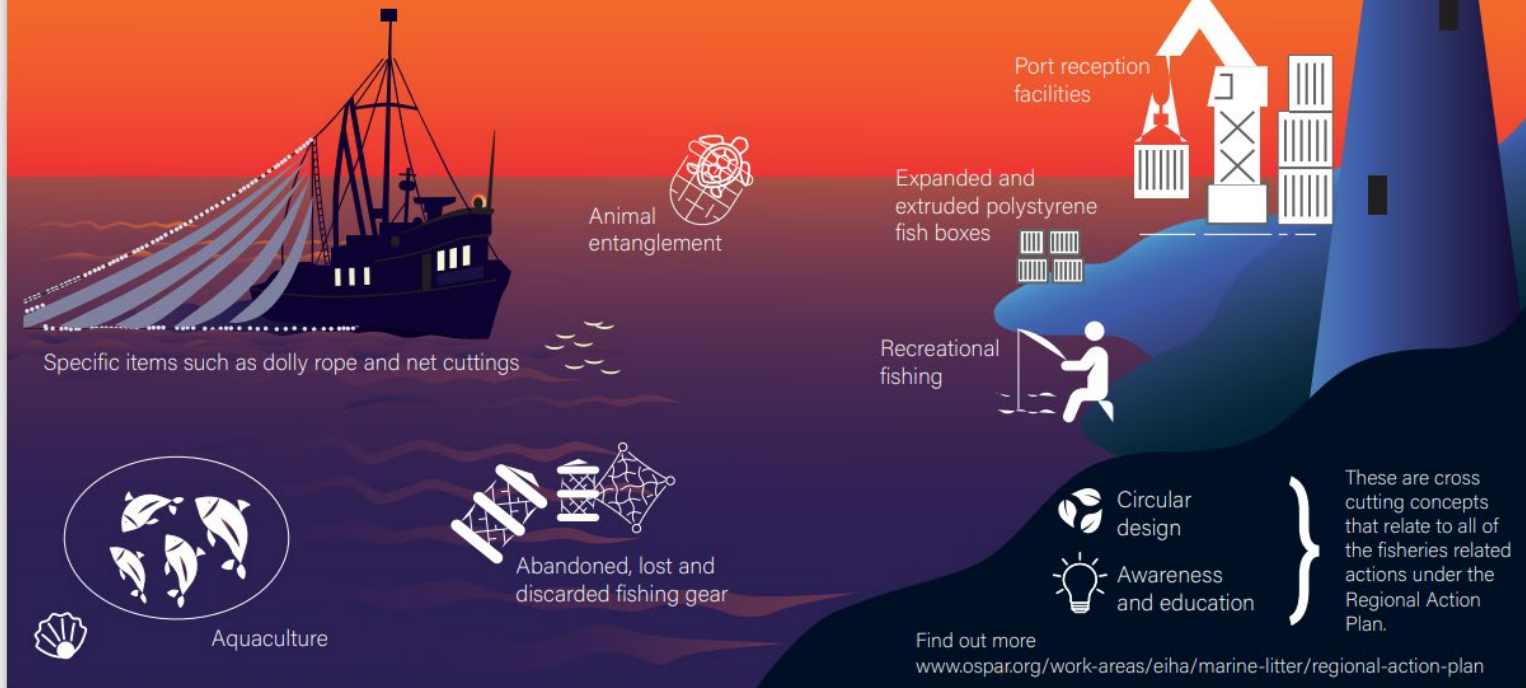
There are 7 actions in the RAP ML 2 that seek to address marine litter coming from fishing and aquaculture

**3** key areas of action  
**25** Actions with detailed plans  
**23** with confirmed leads

# 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 (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. March 2024, Brussels.
- Agreement 2019-08: OSPAR Guidelines on the Implementation of Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers.
- OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the Implementation of Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers.
- OSPAR Recommendation 2024/01 on the management of expanded polystyrene (EPS) and extruded polystyrene (XPS) fish boxes in the OSPAR area, to prevent release of EPS/XPS into the marine environment.

A long list, too much to read out loud

- And more to come...Have a look at:

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

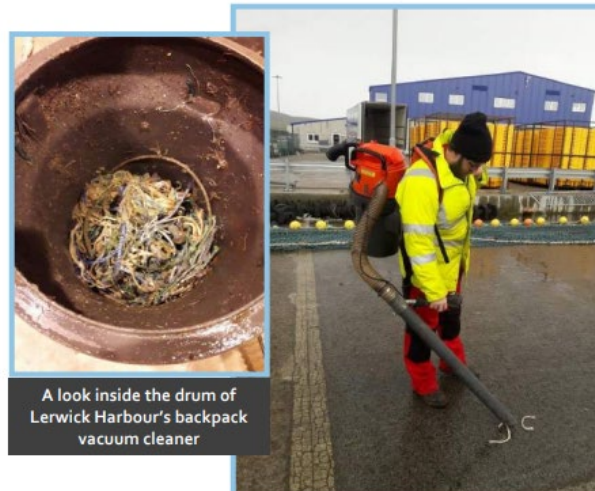
# Best practises for a cleaner sea

- 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 biomedica from wastewater treatment plants;
- Reducing net cuttings – in development -

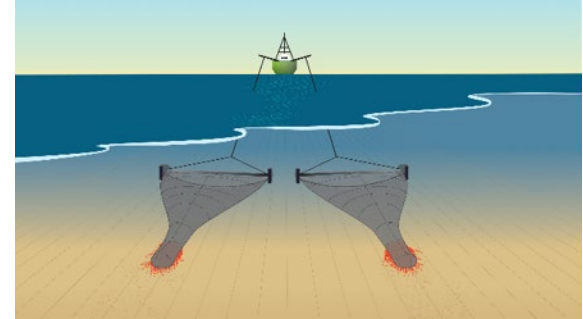
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A look inside the drum of  
Lerwick Harbour's backpack  
vacuum cleaner

# 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 of 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.





Thanks for your attention!  
Any questions?

Follow OSPAR on Twitter [@osparcomm](https://twitter.com/osparcomm) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ospar-commission/)  
**#MarineLitter | #MLRAP2 | #OSPARprotects**  
[www.ospar.org](http://www.ospar.org)