

Ministry of environment, energy and the oceans

France

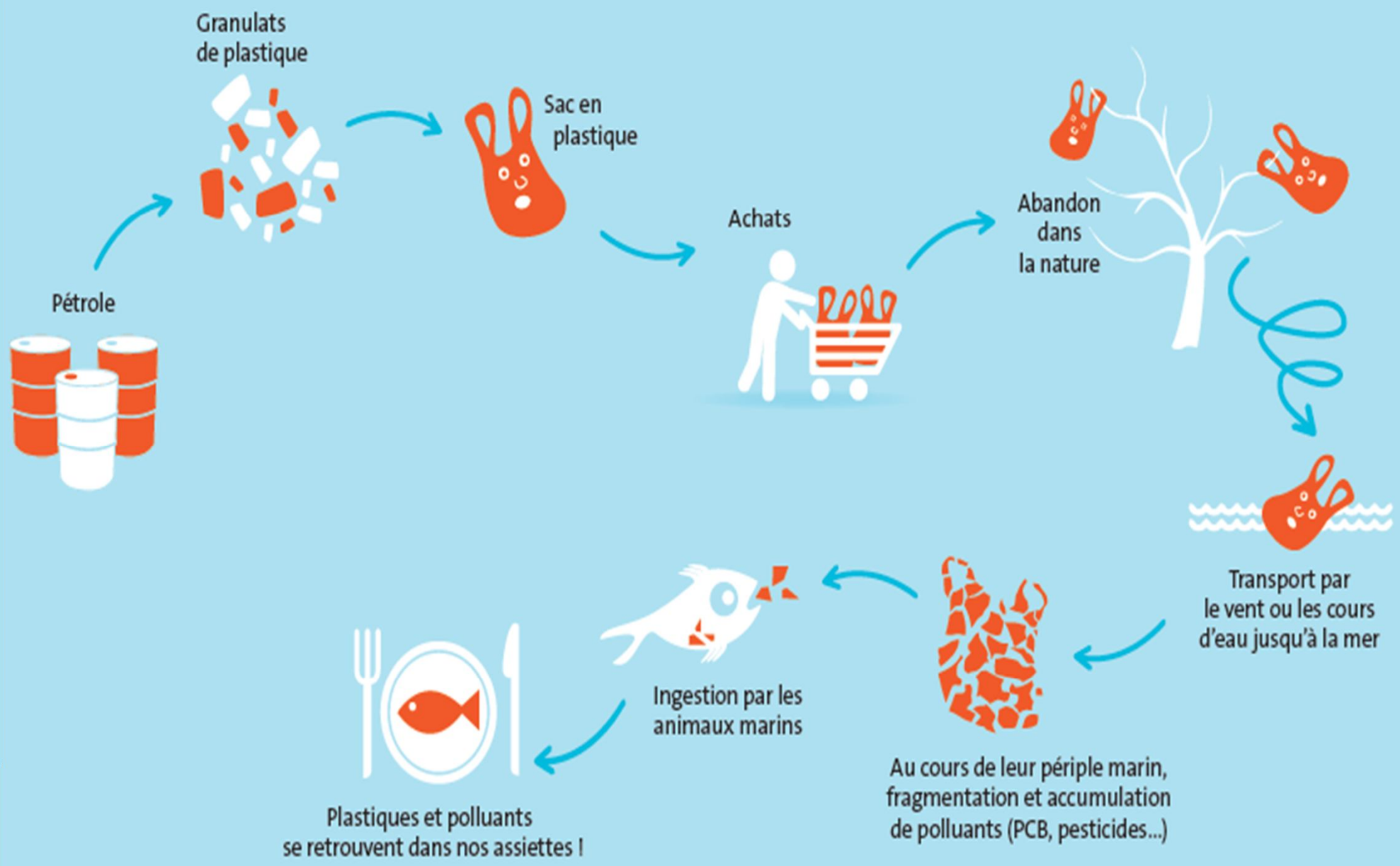
**Focus on legislation on plastic carrier
bags and other waste**

**Prevention and management measures
in France**



Context

- 17 billions of plastic bags used every year in France
 - Single-use plastic carrier bags : 5 billions
 - « Fruits and vegetables » (lightweight) plastic bags : 12 billions
- Voluntary commitments of mass-market retailers since 2004 have lead to a significant reduction of plastic bags use



Overview of the french measures

Article 75 of the law on energy transition and green growth (August 17th, 2015)

- Making available plastic carrier bags ends from january 1st, 2016
- Alternative solutions : re-usable bags or paper/fabric bags
- Making available lightweight plastic bags for consumption goods ends from january 1st, 2017
- Except for those suitable for domestic composting and manufactured, wholly or partly, using bio-based materials
- Alternative solutions : re-usable bags or paper/fabric bags



Overview of the French measures

Decree of march 30th, 2016 and other specifications

- Definition and features of plastic bags
- Single-use bag: less than 50 micrometers => reusable bag means equal to or higher than 50 micrometers
- Carrier bag: made available at the point of sale at the cash-desks
- Bio-based: addition of materials of biological origin (potato or corn starch)
- Minimum bio-based contents from 2017 to 2025 (30 % to 60 %)
- Specifications of labels or marking of bags to provide consumer with the information about the composition
- Compostable in home composting (approved French standard NF T 51-800/2015 or equivalent standard used in EU, EEA or in Turkey), « OK compost home » meets this requirement too)
- Can be sorted (collection of bio-waste)

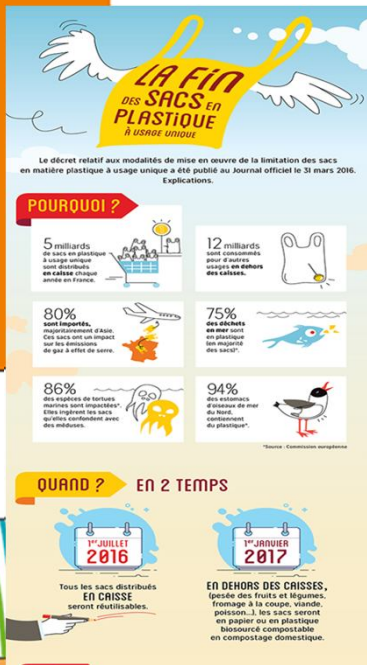
Not to be abandoned in nature (littering)

Bio-based (current international standard: ISO standard 16620-2/2015 or CEN/TS 16640/2014)



Supporting measures

- **Communication tools** (infography, info-sign...)
- Questions and answers (stocks, application scope, sanctions)
- **Financial support** from ADEME for municipalities who have anticipated the plastic bag ban in shops (purchase of reusable bags, or bio-based bag and compostable in domestic composting, communication actions)
- **Call for projects** developping new bio-based materials (ADEME)



Other actions

- **Disposable tableware** (article 73 of the law on energy transition and green growth - decree in progress)
 - Prohibiting making available of disposable plastic cups, glasses and plates for culinary use from January 1st, 2020
 - Except for those suitable for domestic composting and manufactured, wholly or partly, using bio-based materials
- Law on Biodiversity (adopted in August 2016, and decree in March 2017): to restrict the marketing of **microbeads in rinse-off cleaning and cosmetic products** (at last 1 January 2018); to restrict the marketing of **plastic cotton swabs** (1 January 2020).

Suggestions :

Take measures to ban or significantly reduce single-use plastic products generating marine litter

Join the international coalition to stop plastic pollution

For further information

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Questions-Reponses-sur-les-sacs-en,8678-.html>

bpfrep@developpement-durable.gouv.fr



Focus on Fishery sector

AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- **Voluntary initiative based on Extended producer responsibility schemes:** feasibility study (2016-2017) on the implementation of a waste management system of plastics used in the **fisheries sector (fishing nets...)**
- Studies on accumulation areas, and on collection/ recovery of lost nets
- Coordination by ministries, involvement of fishery sector, NGOs and scientific institutions

Focus on Fishery sector

INVOLVEMENT IN RSCs REGIONAL ACTION PLANS

Examples :

- 1) Identify the options to address key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture (OSPAR)
- 2) Call to be organized to support implementation of monitoring and reduction measures in the French Caribbean islands
- 3) Fishing for litter initiatives in the Mediterranean

Suggestion:

GLOBAL COORDINATION and MORE CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FISHERY SECTOR: fishing industry and dedicated regional institutions (RFMOs, PICES, ICES, CGFM, etc.)

Focus on monitoring

FRANCE OPERATE 6 MONITORING NETWORKS COVERING THE MSFD REQUIREMENTS: Stranded litter and microplastics, Floating litter and microplastics, Sea floor , ingested litter (sea turtles and birds).

- G7 / technical group on marine litter (26th January 2016): Tokyo Message on the Standardization and Harmonization of Marine Litter Monitoring:

- the participants have agreed on commonly used methods and metrics applied in monitoring of marine

- We further see the need in establishing a G7 technical group, working on standardization and harmonization of marine litter monitoring methods.

- Towards building up a future global databank (a census on marine litter).

- G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting (Toyama, Japan, May 15-16, 2016): *Priority measures to Implement G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter*

Action (5): actions towards standardizing and harmonizing monitoring methodologies



FRANCE SUPPORTS THE PROCESS

