

G7 Workshop on Marine Litter – Rome, 20–21 April 2017

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE G7 ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER: ITALIAN ACTIVITIES



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON ML



G7 2017
ITALIA

Italy is fully committed to implement the G7 “Action Plan to combat Marine Litter” (G7APML). The related activities at national, regional and international level will be carried out through the Barcelona Convention Marine Litter Action Plan that is the application, at regional level, of the principles and content of the G7 action plan:

- Prevention (sea based and land based sources)
- Removal activities
- Education, research and outreach



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NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON ML



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At national level the activities related to ML removal action at sea, monitoring, outreach, research are carried out mainly within the framework of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and its Programme of Measures and of the EcAP process (Ecosystem Approach) of the Barcelona Convention and fall under the responsibility of the General Direction for Nature and Sea Protection of the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea. The activities related to ML prevention are mainly in charge to the General Direction for Waste and Pollution of the IMELS.



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NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON ML



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Priority Actions to Address Land-Based Sources

Full implementation of:

- **Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC);**
- **(e.g. waste prevention programs, extended producer responsibility schemes; waste recycling targets...);**
- **Packaging and Waste Packaging Directive (94/62/EC);**
- **EU action plan on circular economy as set in COM(2015) 614 of 2 December 2015;**
- **Ban of traditional plastic bags since 2012**

Priority removal Action

Within the MSFD PoMs specific “fishing for litter” measures will be implemented.

The Italian Law “Collegato Ambientale” introduced provisions aimed at regulating and promoting litter removal from the seabed of marine protected areas.

Priority Action to address sea based sources

Within the MSFD PoMs specific measures aimed at reducing waste generated from fishery and aquaculture activities will be implemented, including discarded fishing gear, encouraging, when possible, its re-use, recycling and recovery.

Moreover the Port Reception Facilities Directive (2000/59/EC) is currently under revision with the aim to reduce the amount of waste that is not properly disposed.

Priority Actions on Education, Research and Outreach

To assess the impact of ML along the coast and on the biota, and the progress towards the achievement of GES, Italy has developed, in the the MSFD context, a monitoring programme, in line with both priority *removal actions* and priority actions on *research* of G7APML.

The monitoring programme addresses:

- ✓ Microplastics on the sea water surface
- ✓ Beach litter
- ✓ Seafloor litter (data will be collected on an opportunistic basis through fisheries surveys)
- ✓ Habitat monitoring of white corals in offshore areas (to fill the gap of information on the condition of this habitat and the extent and type of "ghost nets" and other waste on the seabed)

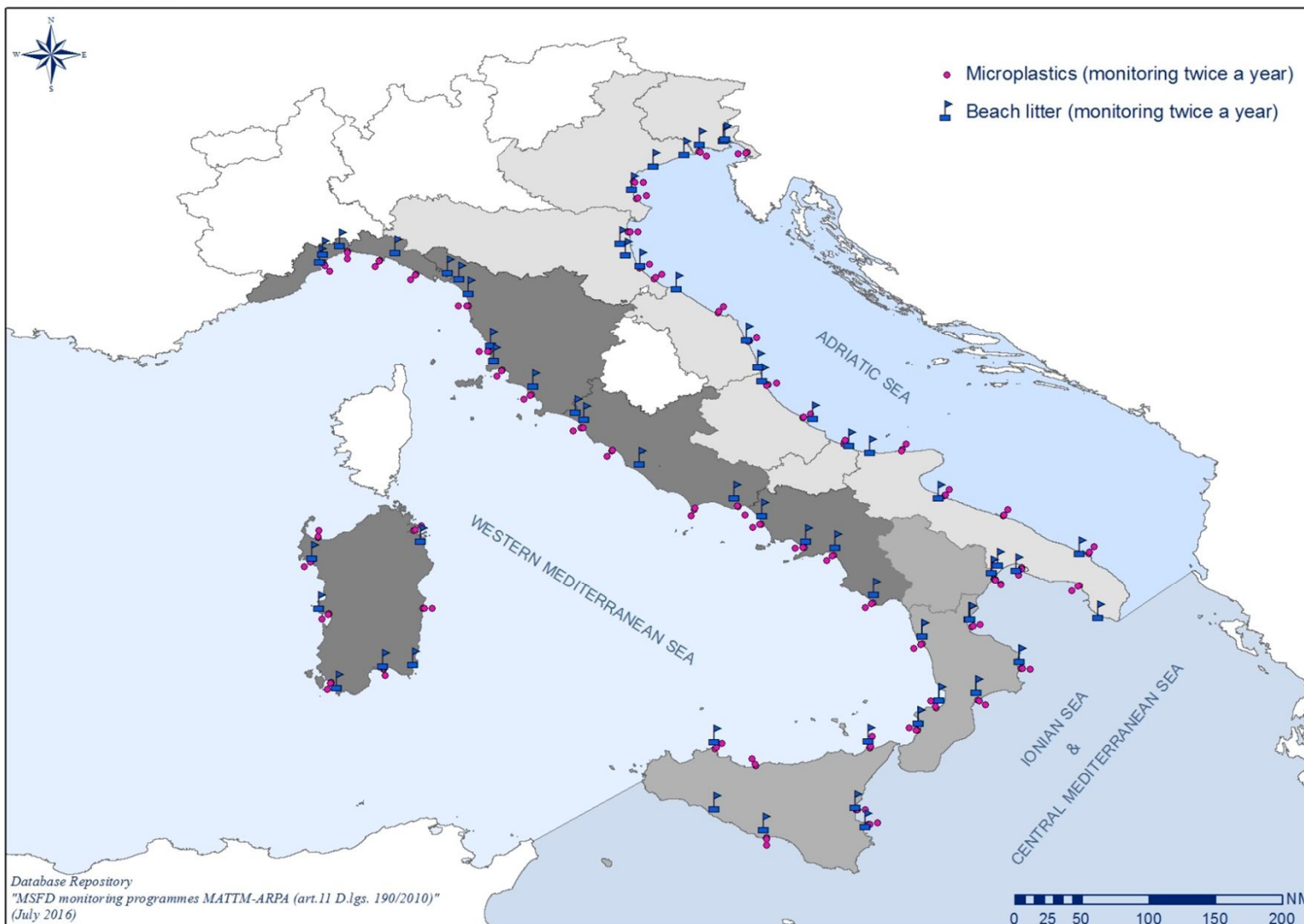


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MONITORING ACTIVITIES ON ML



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Regional Implementation and Capacity building activities : BILATERAL AGREEMENT

14th September 2016: signature of a cooperation Agreement with

UNEP/MAP



4.5 millions €

4 main components

- Development and strengthening of an effective SPAMIs management;
- Enhancement of marine litter management;
- Creation of a Mediterranean network of CAMP projects;
- Promotion of governance tools for blue growth.

The project component on ML includes three work streams:

- ✓ Fishing for Litter and Port Reception Facilities;
- ✓ Initiatives to identify gaps and issues to better understand the topic of sea-based sources (implementation of MARPOL Annex V – G7 Marine Litter Action Plan);
- ✓ Assessment of ML hot spots at sea in areas close to selected SPAMIs, with a focus on developing a common methodology for hot spot accumulation assessment.

BILATERAL AGREEMENT

All the activities will include public awareness initiatives with the involvement of stakeholders.

The three work streams will contribute to implement the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan as well as the priority actions identified under the G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter.



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RESEARCH



Research projects aimed at evaluating distribution and impacts of litter/microplastics such as:

- **The emerging issue of microplastics in the Mediterranean Sea 2011-2014**
- **Plastic Pelagos 2014-2016**
- **GIONHA and DeFishGEAR both EC funded (IPA, INTERREG)**
- **Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean Sea free from Litter**



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OUTREACH AND SENSIBILIZATION

- ✓ A number of campaigns, aimed at raising awareness, **improving education and correct behaviours** as regards to marine litter issues including the reduction of plastic, were carried out and are still ongoing.
- ✓ In the MSFD PoMs a further awareness measure specifically targeted to **fishermen and aquaculture industry** is currently being explored.