



G7 Workshop on Marine Litter

"Mainstreaming the work of the Regional Sea Programmes
towards the better implementation of the G7 Action Plan
and the achievement of the global commitments on marine litter"

ROME, 20-21 APRIL 2017

"Global, regional and national best practices and strategies on Marine Litter to implement the G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter"

Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)





PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Ban of traditional plastic bags

- > 2006: First legislative measure aiming at gradually reduce the production and consumption of plastic shoppers
- **▶ 2012:** Ban of plastic bags other than biodegradable and compostable ones

2007	2014
227,000 tons.	104,000 tons.





BEACH LITTER REDUCTION

Small and micro items (receipts, chewingum, tissues, cigarette butts, etc.) are an important source of litter

➤ In 2015 a legislative measure was introduced to reduce the improper discarding of such small size waste items in the environment.

In particular, municipalities shall install special containers for the collection of cigarette butts in the streets, in parks and high social gathering places. Tobacco producers shall implement information campaigns, in collaboration with the IMELS, with the aim to raise consumer awareness about the harmful consequences for the environment resulting from the littering of cigarette butts





REMOVAL INITIATIVES

The Italian Law 28/12/2015 n.221 introduced a provision aimed at regulating and promoting litter removal from the seabed near marine protected areas

- > The IMELS is going to sign agreements for the collection and management of waste found on the seabed of selected ports
 - These agreements will involve Port authorities, Marine Protected Areas, municipalities, environmental associations, local fisheries and scuba diving associations
 - > The objective of the agreement is to identify an integrated system for the collection and the management of waste removed from the seabed, also through education and training initiatives for fisheries and diving associations, aimed at identifying the best procedures and possibly extending them to other ports





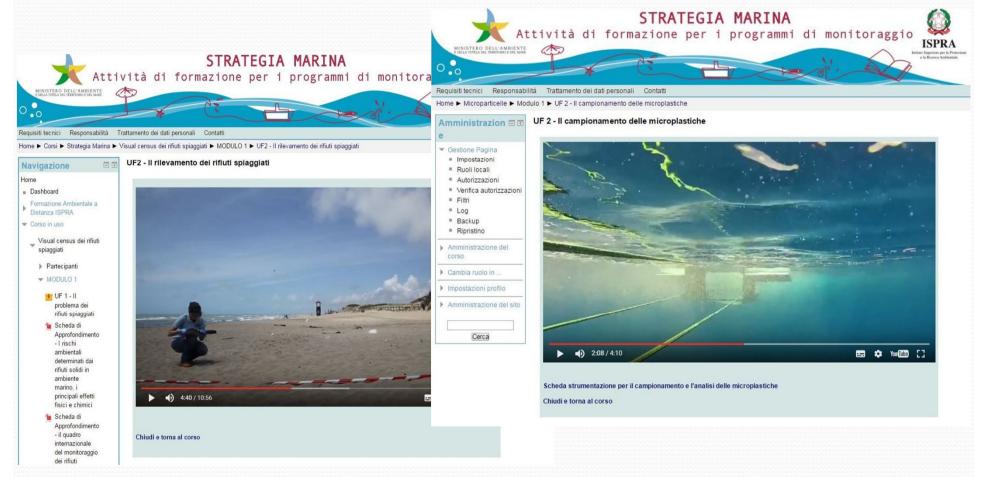
REMOVAL INITIATIVES

Examples of activities within the agreement:

- provision of containers for the collection of waste removed from the seabed to fishermen and Marine Protected Areas;
- identification of sites suitable for the delivery of waste and positioning of boxes and/or containers clearly identified for the separate collection of waste;
- awareness and education activities for the Marine Protected Areas visitors, fisheries and scuba diving associations on the proper management of waste generated by these activities;
- awareness initiatives oriented to scuba diving professionals to report on any "hot spot" found during their dives



MONITORING



Development of specific e-learning training courses on beach litter and microlitter monitoring for technical personnel in charge of fieldwork.

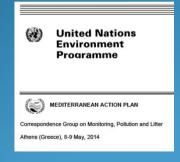
In 2011 the DG ENV requested to the MSFD-TG on ML to further develop the Fulmar indicator implemented in the North Sea and adapt it to other Regions. ISPRA lead a task group with the aim to find an indicator for "Trends in the amount and composition of litter ingested by marine animals" in the Mediterranean Sea.

After a pilot project, Loggerhead sea turtle Caretta caretta has been chosen as target specie for the Med (2011).



The details of the method are reported in the MSFD-TG on ML report (2013)





Similar considerations have been made within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (2014)



The protocol has been applied in Med (Camedda et al., 2014) and in the Ocean (Nicolau et al., 2016.)

INDICIT project (2017-2019), financed by the DG ENV in the context of the Implementation of the Second Cycle of the MSFD, aims to improve the guidelines and create a Mediterranean network on marine litter ingested by sea turtles





LIFE+ Projects on Marine Litter

IMELS is the National Focal Point



> SMILE – Strategies for Marine Litter and Environmental prevention of sea pollution in coastal areas – aims to decrease marine litter in coastal areas.

The project involves 4 Municipalities in Liguria Region and focuses on different levels:

- finding efficient solution for waste recovery and recycle;
- building common strategies for local waste management;
- raising citizens and tourists' awareness to encourage sustainable behaviours
- MERMAIDS aims to the mitigation of microplastics impact caused by textile washing processes. Fibers discharged from washing synthetic clothes are a major contributor of microplastic in the oceans.
 - The project demonstrates and implements innovative technologies and additives for laundry processes and textile finishing treatments, applying already developed scientific-technological knowledge





LIFE+ Projects on Marine Litter

- CLEAN SEA LIFE is an awareness campaign aiming at a concrete and short-term goal –
 recovering quantities of marine litter and a long-term goal, which is to induce all sea
 lovers to get active on the topic. The specific objectives are:
 - to increase awareness of marine litter, empowering citizens to become part of the solution
 - to remove existing litter, including lost fishing gear, and prevent further littering
 - to promote "fishing for litter" initiatives and to train fishing industry professionals in responsible practices
 - to provide guidelines for the management of marine litter, increase exchange of knowledge, the uptake of best practices and assist authorities in achieving a Good Environmental Status of the sea, as required under the MSFD.
- GHOST promotes measures to reduce the effects of *Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear* (ALDFG) and to improve the biodiversity of rocky habitats in the coastal areas of the north Adriatic Sea. The specific objectives are:
 - to assess the impact of ghost nets on the fish and benthic communities in the *tegnùe*, which are rocky outcrops off the Veneto coast and to help improve the *tegnùe* biodiversity by removing ALDFG
 - to test the efficiency of the methods used to map and remove ALDFG and apply them to similar coastal habitats
 - to suggest how to dispose of and/or recycle both recovered and outdated gear and nets properly
 - to draw up a proposal with stakeholders to regulate ALDFG management in the Veneto region
 - to develop an operative protocol for ALDFG management in coastal areas