

“State of the art” for Marine Litter (1)



- ▶ Bucharest Convention is a **Regional Sea Convention for the Black Sea** basin; basic objective is to **prevent, reduce and control the pollution**;
- ▶ One of 4 thematic Protocols is **LBS Protocol**, sets the **obligations to control, monitor and assess pollution from land-based sources, including the riverine loads**;
- ▶ **Strategic Action Plan (SAP)** on the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (2009);
- ▶ There is **no specific Advisory Group on Marine Litter**, but due to the cross-cutting nature of marine litter, all are dealing to some extent with the ML problematics;
- ▶ EU environmental legislation is not legally binding (2 out of 6), but **BSIMAP 2017-2022 is harmonized** with MSFD Directive;
- ▶ **Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Black Sea** was **adopted** by the Black Sea Commission in October, 2018;
- ▶ **Draft Marine Litter Monitoring Programme for the Black Sea** is currently being considered for adoption (**beach, floating, sea floor, microlitter/microplastics, ingested by or entangling marine organisms**).

“State of the art” for Marine Litter (2)



- ▶ In 2015 BSC joined the **UNEP Partnership on Marine Litter**;
- ▶ Work of **UNEP Global Group on Indicators**, in drafting the **World Ocean Assessment Report II**, within activities of Sustainable Ocean Initiative (**SOI**); agreements under relevant global and regional organizations covering our seas (**GFCM and ACCOBAMS** Agreements);
- ▶ Partner or sub-contractor in a range of EU-funded **projects** (Advisory Board of MARLISCO, CLEANSEA, MSFD Project, PERSEUS, STAGES, EMBLAS+, BS Connect etc.);
- ▶ During the Regional Verification workshop **marine litter common indicators** were considered;
- ▶ Recent Publication on ML in Black Sea http://tudav.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/MarineLitterintheBlackSea_tudav.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2P5uX5rmaB5kBwUpGRp3NXrRlf0BJ5MkmRQJdP7SDtTNcQMX4imnxVhol

Impact of COVID-19 on ML



- ▶ COVID-19 definitely worsened Ocean Plastic Pollution problem: observing the **obvious increase of plastic waste and single use plastics** due to changes in life styles and attitude towards hygiene during pandemic (immense masks, gloves etc.);
- ▶ Mediterranean data clearly shows that loads of plastic litter **increased dramatically** from April, 2020;
- ▶ COVID-19 is **found in waste waters before treatment** (global data), proper WWTPs are likely to reduce risk of virus spreading in the marine environment;
- ▶ COVID-19 lockdowns meant “**less garbage, but more plastics**”,

Conclusions/recommendations:



- ▶ **All CMA projects** shall prioritize and promote plastic waste prevention and reuse;
- ▶ Reconsider perception of sustainable consumptions changes due to COVID-19
- ▶ Consider prevention of ML in PRFs, recycling of fishing nets, etc.
- ▶ To coordinate the mechanism of implementation of ML RAP for Black Sea with relevant regional partners (RSCs, UNEP, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, BSEC, industries, academia, NGOs etc.);
- ▶ To harmonize approaches with 4 European RSCs ML RAPs, as well as relevant fisheries organizations and initiatives on regional and global level (UN activities, FAO (GFCM), CBD Convention, Regular process on Global Reporting (World Ocean Assessment II); Global Working Group on Indicators; EU MSFD, SOI Initiative, Ocean Governance, SDGs, Aichi Targets etc.);
- ▶ To harmonize the approaches on establishing the **baselines for ML** and **monitoring techniques** on regional and global level ;
- ▶ To encourage appropriate involvement of various authorities and other stakeholders (Regional, National and local authorities from Fisheries and Aquaculture sector, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Civil society.

Relevant measures and activities in BS RAP on Marine Litter :



- ▶ Implement “**Gear marking to indicate ownership**” concept and ‘reduced ghost catches through the use of environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept’, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector;
- ▶ Organise training courses on **ghost fishing**;
- ▶ Implementation of the “**Fishing for Litter**” environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate clean up of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or **generated by fishing vessels** in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears;
- ▶ Implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (**ACCOBAMS**), where applicable.