

SUB-PROGRAMME: MACROLITTER CHARACTERISTICS AND ABUNDANCE/VOLUME

Monitoring programme: Litter

Programme topic: Litter

SUB-PROGRAMME 3: MACROLITTER CHARACTERISTICS AND ABUNDANCE/VOLUME - FLOATING LITTER

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REGIONAL COORDINATION

The monitoring of this sub-programme is: **not coordinated**.

PURPOSE OF MONITORING (Q4K)

Follow up of progress towards:

Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

Segments

Hazardous substances
Biodiversity

DIVERSITY
Maritime activities

Ecological objectives

Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels
 Natural landscapes and seascapes
 Thriving and balanced communities of plants and animals
 No illegal pollution
 Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution

Marine strategy framework directive (MSFD)

Descriptors

D10 Litter

Criteria ([Q5a](#))

10DC1 The composition, amount and spatial distribution of litter on the coastline, in the surface layer of the water column, and on the seabed, are at levels that do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment.

Member States shall establish threshold values for these levels through cooperation at Union level, taking into account regional or subregional specificities.

Features ([Q5c](#))

Other features:
 A description of any other features or characteristics typical of or specific to the marine region or subregion.

Other relevant legislation ([Q8a](#))

Bathing Water Directive
 OSPAR Convention
 MSFD D10C1

Assessment of: ([Q4k](#))

State/Impacts **X** temporal trends, spatial distribution, state classification

Pressures

Human activities

Scale of data aggregation for assessments: ([Q10a](#))

HELCOM assessment unit Level 1: Baltic Sea

HELCOM assessment unit Level 2: Subbasin

HELCOM assessment unit Level 3: Subbasins with coastal and offshore division

HELCOM assessment unit Level 4: Subbasins with coastal WFD

causing the pressures

Effectiveness of measures

HELCOM assessment unit Level 4: Subbasins with coastal WFD division

Other: National

X

MONITORING CONCEPTS TABLE

Coordination	Elements Q9a (Q5c)	Parameter Q9a (Q5c)	Method Q9c, Q9d	QA/QC Q9e, 9f	Frequency Q9h, 9i	Spatial resolution Q9g, 9j	Link to HELCOM core indicators	Link to MSFD GES characteristics Q5b	Spatial scope Q4i	Monitoring started Q4h	CPs monitoring
National	Floating macrolitter	Quantity and type of litter items	Aerial survey	National	Four times per year/each season	Entire German Baltic Sea	-	10.1.2 Trends in the amounts of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor	EEZ	2002	Germany
National	Floating litter	Quantity and type of litter items	Visual ship-based observations and samplings	National	Yearly	6 stations, 2 transects	-	10.1.2 Trends in the amounts of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor	EEZ	2015	Poland

Brief description of monitoring

Element / parameter	Litter in the water column & floating litter/Quantity and type of litter items (PL)
Method	The monitoring will be carried out within the monitoring cruises devoted to other parameters (hydrochemistry and biology). The methodology will be based on visual ship-based observations of floating litter at monitoring stations and at transects, and categorization of material and size
QA/QC	National
Frequency	Yearly
Spatial Scope	EEZ
Spatial resolution	6 stations, 2 transects

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring requirements and gaps

Monitoring is to be carried out to fulfill assessment requirements of HELCOM ecological objectives that are specified through HELCOM core indicators. The requirements on monitoring can include number of stations, the sampling frequency and replication.

Monitoring requirements

Gaps

Adequacy for assessment of GES (Q5d)

Monitoring should provide adequate data and information to enable the periodic assessment of environmental status, and distance from and progress

towards GES as required by MSFD under Article 9 and 11.

Adequate data?	No
Established methods for assessment?	No
Adequate understanding of GES?	No
Adequate capacity to perform assessments?	No

Assessment of natural variability (Q5e)

DATA PROVIDERS AND ACCESS

Data access point	-
Data type (Q10c)	-
Data availability (Q10c)	-
Data access (Q10c)	-
INSPIRE standard (Q10c)	-
When will data become available? (Q10c)	-
Data update frequency (Q10c)-	
Describe how the data and information from the programme will be made accessible to the EC/EEA	-
Contact points in the Contracting parties	Contact point to national monitoring programmes will be added
Has the data been used in HELCOM assessments?	No

REFERENCES

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