

SUB-PROGRAMME: MACROLITTER CHARACTERISTICS AND ABUNDANCE/VOLUME

Monitoring programme: Litter

Programme topic: Litter

SUB-PROGRAMME 2: MACROLITTER CHARACTERISTICS AND ABUNDANCE/VOLUME - LITTER ON THE SEAFLOOR

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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

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 causing the pressures

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 division

Effectiveness of measures

DIVISION

Other: National

X

MONITORING CONCEPTS TABLE

Coordination	Elements <u>Q9a (Q5c)</u>	Parameter <u>Q9a (Q5c)</u>	Method <u>Q9c, Q9d</u>	QA/QC <u>Q9e, 9f</u>	Frequency <u>Q9h, 9i</u>	Spatial resolution <u>Q9g, 9i</u>	Link to HELCOM core indicators	Link to MSFD GES characteristics <u>Q5b</u>	Spatial scope <u>Q4i</u>	Monitoring started <u>Q4h</u>	CPs monitoring
National	Anthropogenic litter	Quantity and type of litter items	Bottom trawl	National	2/annually	50 transects	-	10.1.2 Trends in the amount of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor	EEZ	2010	Denmark
National	Seafloor litter	Quantity and type of litter items	Bottom trawl	National	4 surveys per year	-	-	10.1.2 Trends in the amount of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor	EEZ	2010	Denmark
National	Seafloor litter	Quantity and type of litter items	Fishing for litter	National	-	About 30 fishermen	-	10.1.2 Trends in the amount of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor	Heligen-hafe, Birgstaaken/Fehmarn and Sassnitz	2012	Germany
National	Seafloor litter	Quantity and type	Bottom trawling	National	Seasonal	49 trawls	-	10.1.2 Trends in the amount	EEZ	2012	Lithuania

		Quantity and type of litter items						of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor				
National	Seafloor litter	Quantity and type of litter items	Fishing for litter	National	Every 2 years	-	-	10.1.2 Trends in the amount of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor	EEZ		2015	Poland
National	Seafloor litter	Quantity and type of litter items	Bottom trawling	National	4 times per year (Q1 Q3 in Kattegat, Q1 Q4 in the Baltic Sea)	30-50 stations	-	10.1.2 Trends in the amount of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor	EEZ		2010 (IBTS) 2011 (BITS)	Sweden
National	Beach litter	Quantity and type of litter items	National methodology	National	Other (specify) 4 surveys a year (Apr., mid Jun. - mid Jul., mid Sep. - mid Oct., mid Dec. - mid Jan.)	15 beaches	-	Properties and quantities of ML do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment	Coastal areas		2015	Poland
National	Beach litter	Quantity and type of litter items	MARLIN methodology	National	Other (specify) 3 surveys a year (Spring, Summer, Autumn)	10 beaches	-	Properties and quantities of ML do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment	Coastal areas		2012	Sweden

Brief description of monitoring

Element / parameter	Anthropogenic litter/Quantity and type of litter items
Method	Bottom trawl survey usually used for fish but litter is recorded.
QA/QC	National
Frequency	2/annually
Spatial Scope	EEZ
Spatial resolution	50

Element / parameter	Seafloor litter/Quantity and type of litter items (e.g. SE)
Method	IBTS/BITS programmes
QA/QC	IBTS/BITS protocol
Frequency	4 surveys per year / - / seasonal
Spatial Scope	EEZ
Spatial resolution	-

Element / parameter	Seafloor litter/Quantity and type of litter items (DE)
Method	IBTS/BITS programmes / Fishing for litter/ Bottom trawling
QA/QC	IBTS/BITS protocol
Frequency	4 surveys per year / - / seasonal
Spatial Scope	Heligen hafen, Burstaaken/Fehrmarn and Sassnitz
Spatial resolution	About 30 fishermen

Element / parameter	Seafloor litter/Quantity and type of litter items (DE)
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Element / parameter	Seafloor litter/Quantity and type of litter items (UE)
Method	Litter monitoring will be integrated with fish monitoring (trawling for fish stock assessments). Also the results of projects focussing on marine litter on the seafloor, coordinated by non-governmental organisations (e.g. WWF Poland) will be used.
QA/QC	National
Frequency	Every 2 years
Spatial Scope	EEZ
Spatial resolution	-

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

There is wide experience and data collected on litter in the seafloor and fishing gear/lost fishing nets in the HELCOM area. Seafloor litter collection is integrated to bottom trawling for fish stocks assessment, so therefore the selection of the sampling stations as well as frequency is associated to the casuistic of the species of interest. Finally, information provided from fishing for litter initiatives contributes to the assessment of the quality of the open water.

Gaps

National monitoring is ongoing in several Contracting Parties, although no coordinated monitoring programme is in force.

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?	Yes
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	National databases
Data type (Q10c)	Processed data sets
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

IMAGE RIGHTS