

MSFD board: marine litter workshop

30th March online

Attendees:

Matteo Vinci (OGS), Alessandra Giorgetti (OGS), Marine Lipizer (OGS), Chiara Altobelli (OGS), Eugenia Molina Jack (OGS), Morgan Le Moigne (IFREMER), Erwann Quimbert (IFREMER), Amandine Thomas (IFREMER), Camille Lacroix (CEDRE), Joni Kaitaranta (HELCOM), Marta Ruiz (HELCOM), Neil Holdsworth (ICES), Hans Mose Jensen (ICES), Anna Osypchuk (ICES), Cecilia Kvaavik (ICES), Eva Blidberg (HSR), Gasper Subelj (TC-VODE), David Fleet (LKN), Christos Loakeimidis (UNEP-MAP), Ahmet Kideys (Marine Litter Watch), Francesca Ronchi (ISPRA), Tomaso Fortibuoni (ISPRA), Thomie Vlachogianni (MIO-ECSDE), Kirsten Dau (NLWKN), Ieva Putna (LHEI)

Scope of meeting and agenda

The meeting was held by Web conference for 1.5 hours, presentations are available on the EMODnet Chemistry web portal.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the MSFD board of experts with regards to Marine litter activities within EMODnet Chemistry. Specifically, aiming to review data flow activities for marine litter (all segments) and discuss the new versions of data products (map layers). This is to ensure that EMODnet Chemistry is tuning its data management and data products to the needs of the end user, and to make best use of the valuable expertise of the MSFD board and finally to keep the expert community informed on progress.

Agenda

1. Intro, aim and round table (Neil Holdsworth, ICES)
2. EMODnet Chemistry introduction (Alessandra Giorgetti, OGS)

[EMODnet Chemistry now and in the next phase](#)

3. Introduction to new marine litter products (Morgan Le Moigne, Amandine Thomas, IFREMER).

[EMODnet Chemistry marine litter: planning maps for marine litter](#)

4. Questions and Answers from MSFD experts and EMODnet Chemistry
5. Wrap-up (Neil Holdsworth, ICES)

Discussion, Questions and responses

1. Query on difference between the **beach litter** maps; explained one was showing a year median, while the other was showing within one year. (Francesca) asked for an explanation of what the median calculation meant,

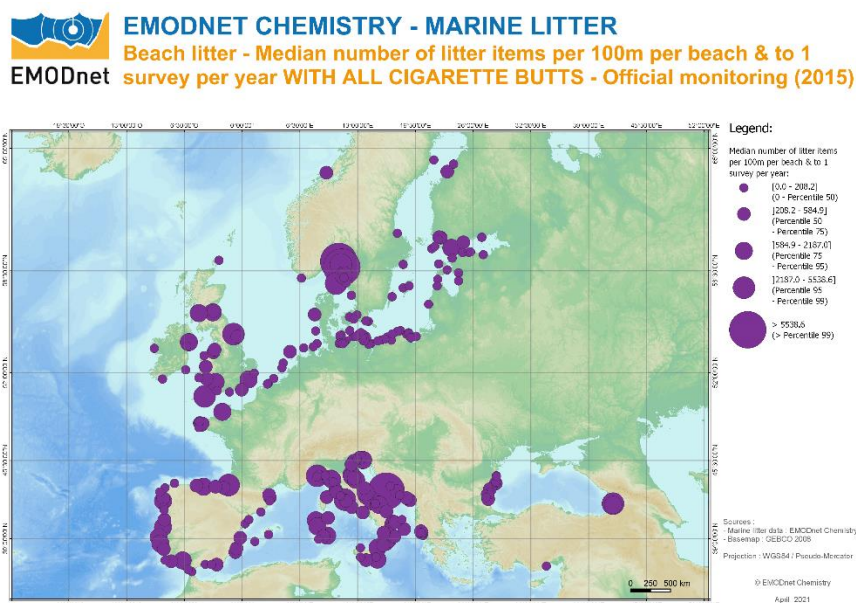
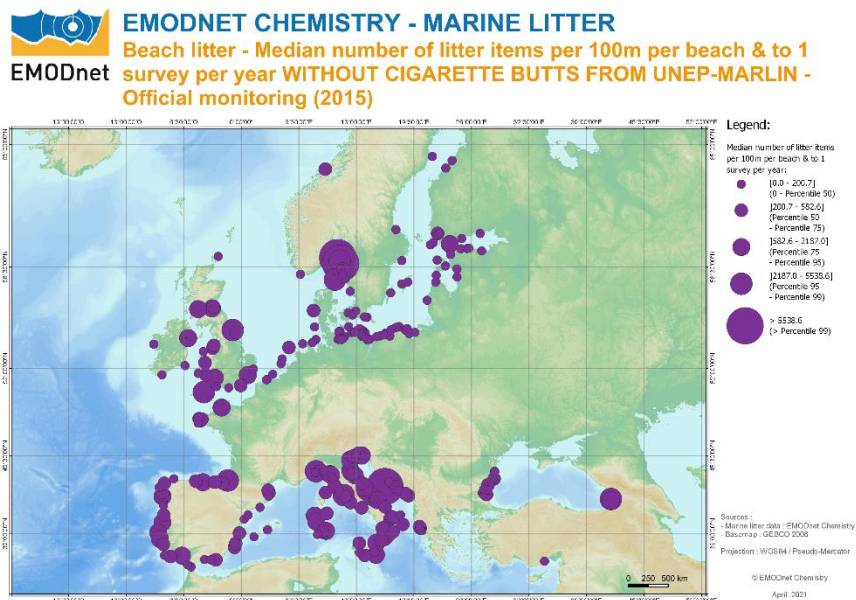
it was clarified this was normalised as there is more than one survey per year

2. It was queried why **cigarette butts** are excluded from Baltic?

These are excluded from the global maps but have dedicated maps as they are sampled to different techniques in different regions;

EMD chem: As the numbers are normalized to a survey length of 100m, cigarette butts from UNEP-MARLIN protocol items will be included in the total abundance map as cigarette butts from the other protocols. Indeed, the inclusion of cigarette butts from UNEP MARLIN protocol does not change the representation of the whole map.

Example of maps with and without cigarette butts from UNEP MARLIN protocol for the year 2015 (year with the highest number of butts from the UNEP-MARLIN protocol):



Some beaches in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and Atlantic coast are impacted in the second map because the percentiles used to define the symbol size thresholds are not the same than for those of the first map.

The list of included or excluded items, the applied normalization and the difference of survey length between UNEP-MARLIN and other protocols will be clearly specified in the metadata online.

3. Question on **seafloor litter** list definitions (dolly ropes) as opposed to beach litter typology

*Possible exclusion of "string < 1cm" (from dolly rope) items in the fishing related items map;
Action: string <1cm will be included in the EMD chem products in the meantime;
Action: TGML to clarify whether this should be included or not;*

4. **Fishing map**: questioned whether Fishing and Aquaculture (combined) was the correct definition i.e. Fishing is capture fisheries, whereas as aquaculture is not;

*Action: EMD Chem - The presence of aquaculture litter in the fishing related items product should be specified; the map title will be changed;
Action: EMD Chem Board of MSFD experts - list of items needs to be validated by experts on MSFD board;*

5. **Beach litter meta data** at different levels and standards;

Action: This is a task for TGML to recommend and advise and work with EMD Chem to come up with a workable standard (reference to existing meta-catalogue);
<https://www.emodnet-chemistry.eu/marinelitter/beachesmap?4>

6. (David) **Non-EU countries** are they presented as 'other surveys' as opposed to 'MSFD official monitoring';

yes, only EU countries are using the MSFD tag.

*For example, MSFD data in France refers to OSPAR list on the Atlantic coast whereas the Mediterranean coast refers to TSG-ML list which can cause granularity issues for the comparison of data
Information point only;*

7. Which Geographical division (spatial units) to use for data aggregation at the regional sea scale

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/europe-seas> use these as the official representation of MSFD regions;

Timeline

For Publication of map products and associated meta-data on Oceanbrowser



- Beach litter – Early May 2021
- Seabed litter - June 2021