

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 3 sites, 25 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 8 sites, 37 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

9454 items collected

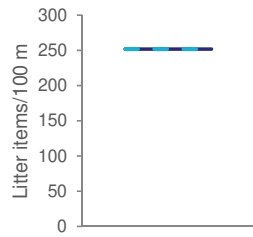
Median total count: 252 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessment value: 116 items/100 m

A reduction of 83% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

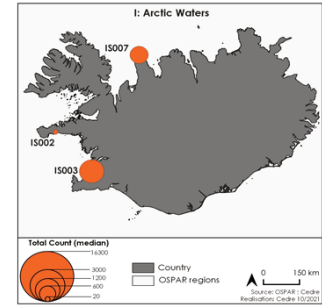
Position in OSPAR area



— MSFD-country subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

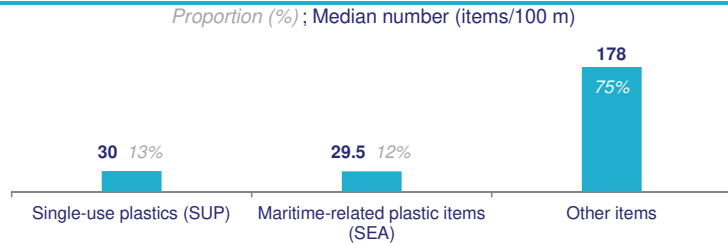


Litter composition

Material composition

Material	Proportion (%)	Median values (items/100 m)
Artificial Polym. Material	98%	172
Rubber	1	1
Cloth/textile	1	1
Paper/cardboard	0	0
Processed/worked wood	1	1
Metal	0	0
Glass/Ceramics	0	0
Undefined	0	0

Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

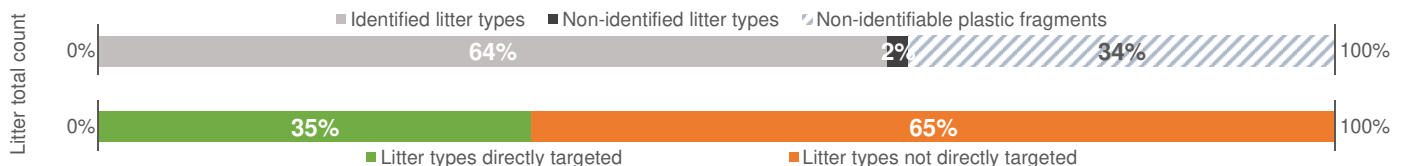
Litter type	Proportion (%)	Median number (items/100 m)
PLAST: Plastic/polystyrene pieces 2.5 - 50 cm [46]	68%	51
PLAST: Shotgun cartridges [43]	8%	6
PLAST: Caps/lids [15]	5%	4
PLAST: Strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm) [32]	5%	4
PLAST: Tangled nets/cord/rope and string [33]	5%	4
PLAST: Other plastic/polystyrene items [48]	2%	2
PLAST: Plastic/polystyrene pieces > 50 cm [47]	2%	2
PLAST: Ropes (diameter more than 1 cm) [31]	1%	1
PLAST: Drinks (bottles, containers and drums) [4]	1%	1
PLAST: Food containers incl. fast food containers [6]	1%	1

Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter type	Medians
Plastic bags <i>39 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Cigarette filters <i>8 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks <i>141 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Hunting cartridges <i>228 items collected</i>	6 items/100 m
Balloons <i>3 items collected</i> <small>incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.</small>	0 item/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures
(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 2 sites, 29 surveys

Calculation tools: LitterR package of R and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

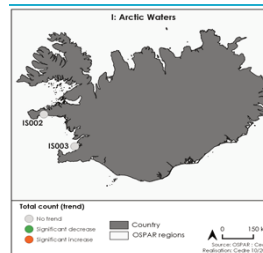
Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded

These trends are provided for information only due to a limited number of site.



Trends in total count

Marine subregion level



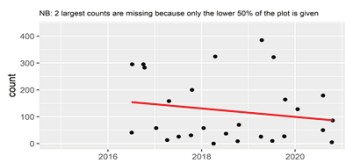
Site level

Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends for categories of interest

Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



Single-use plastics



Maritime-related plastic items



Trends for litter types targeted by RAP measures

Plastic bags

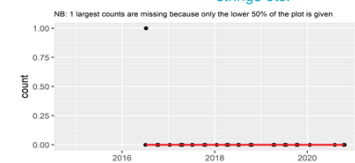


Hunting cartridges



Balloons

incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



Cotton bud sticks



Cigarette filters



● Count of litter items per survey
— Theil-Sen trend line

Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Arctic Waters - Iceland, with a median total count of 252 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 98% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 172 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 30 items/100 m (13%) and 29.5 item/100 m (12%) respectively. Plastic / polystyrene pieces (51 items/100 m; 68%) and hunting cartridges (6 items/100 m; 8%) are abundant litter types. At least 35% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 2% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 34% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 14 sites, 125 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 22 sites, 152 surveys)

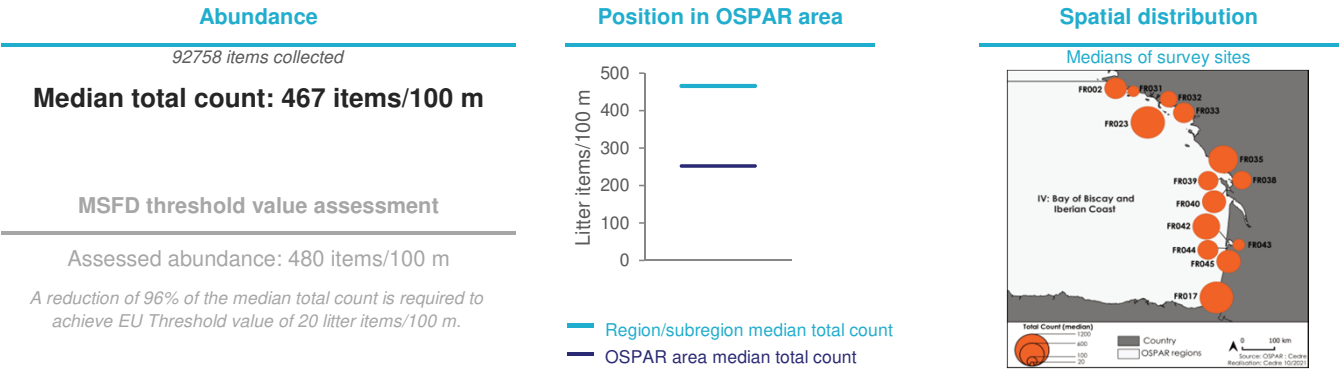
Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

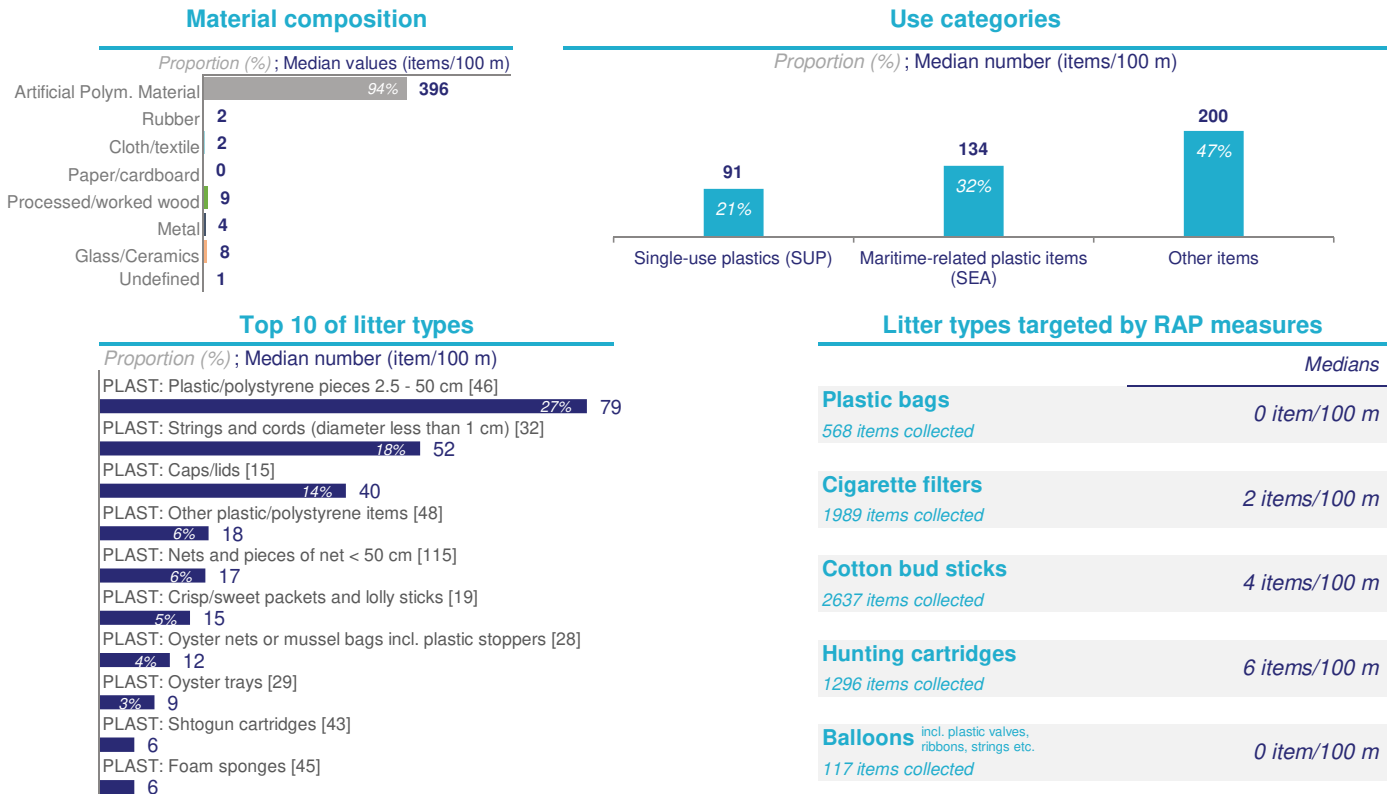
Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



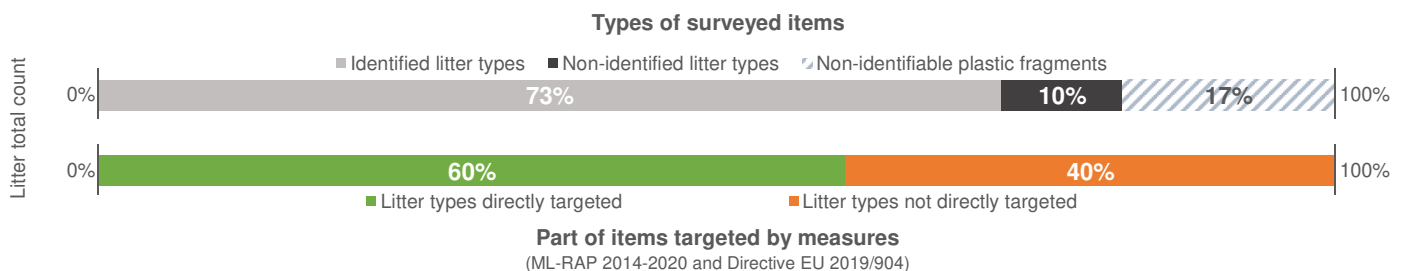
Litter abundance



Litter composition



Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage



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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 1 site, 23 surveys

Calculation tools: LitterR package of R and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

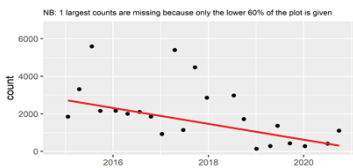
Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded

These trends are provided for information only due to a limited number of site.



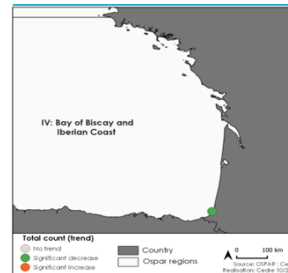
Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Marine subregion level



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -422 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.005



Site level

Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

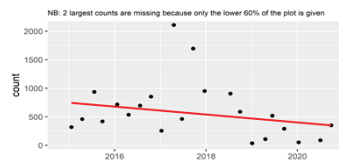
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -401 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.004

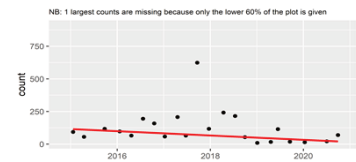
Single-use plastics



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -69 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.103

Maritime-related plastic items

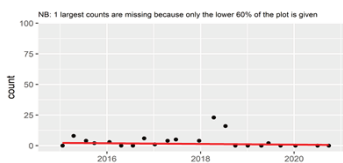


2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -17 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.045

Trends per litter type of interest

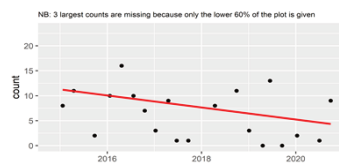
Plastic bags



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.079

Hunting cartridges



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.050

Balloons

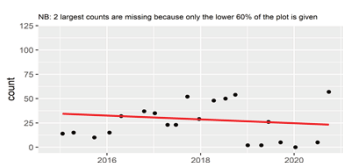
incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.056

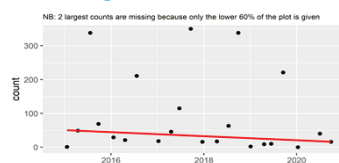
Cotton bud sticks



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -2 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.317

Cigarette filters



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -6 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.093

● Count of litter items per survey
— Theil-Sen trend line

Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast - France, with a median total count of 467 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 94% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 396 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 91 items/100 m (21%) and 134 items/100 m (32%) respectively. Plastic / polystyrene pieces (79 items/100 m; 27%), strings and cords (52 items/100 m; 18%) and caps and lids (40 items/100 m; 14%) are abundant litter types. At least 60% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 10% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 17% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 14 sites, 151 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 15 sites, 159 surveys)

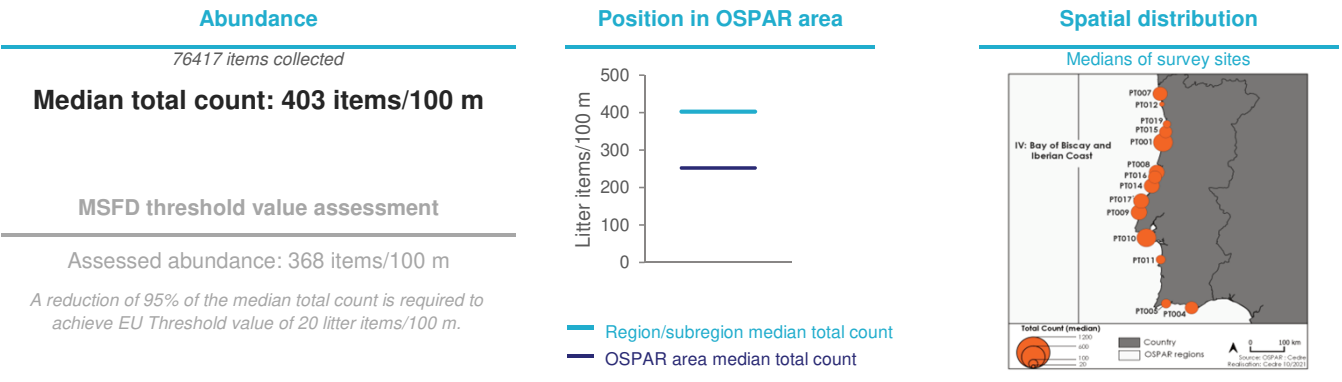
Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

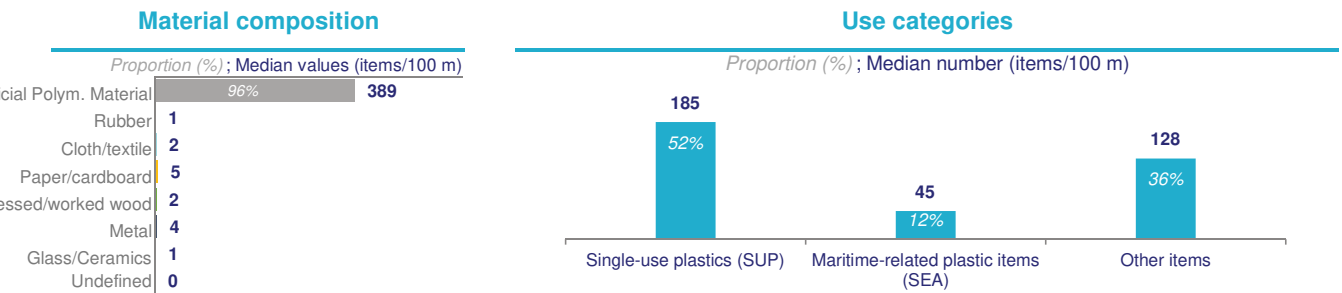
Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



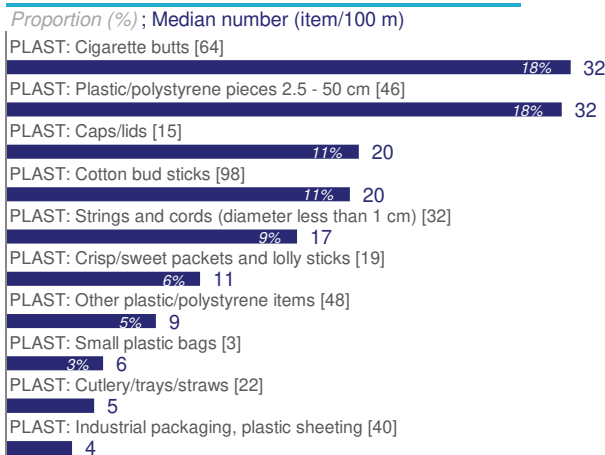
Litter abundance



Litter composition



Top 10 of litter types

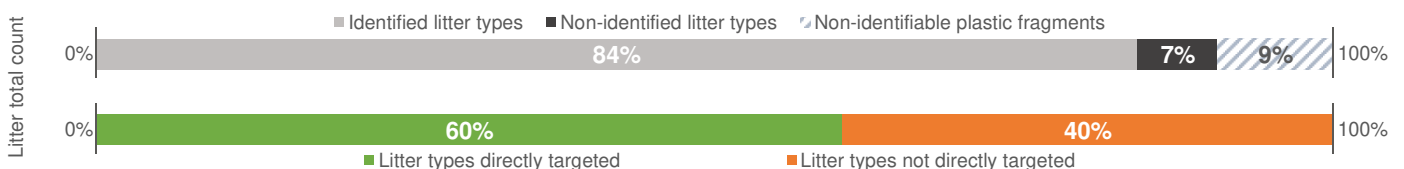


Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter Type	Medians
Plastic bags	3 items/100 m
Cigarette filters	32 items/100 m
Cotton bud sticks	20 items/100 m
Hunting cartridges	1 item/100 m
Balloons (incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.)	0 item/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures (ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 9 sites, 208 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

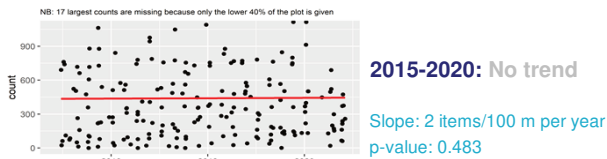
Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded

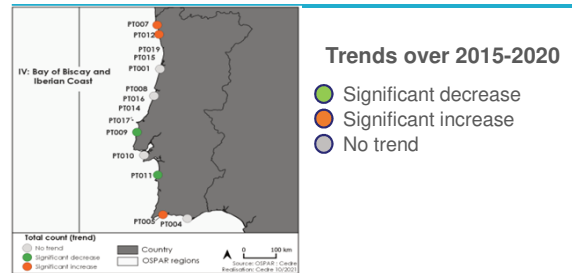


Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Marine subregion level

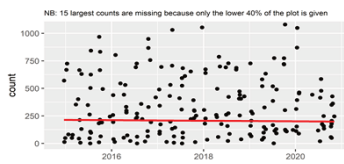


Site level

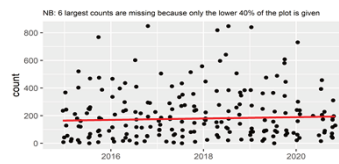


Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

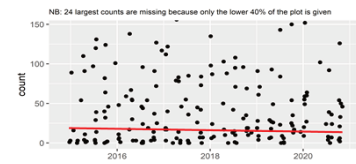
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



Single-use plastics



Maritime-related plastic items



Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags



Hunting cartridges



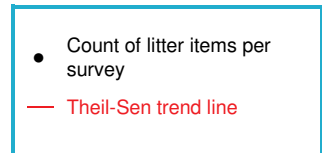
Balloons incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



Cotton bud sticks



Cigarette filters



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast - Portugal, with a median total count of 403 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 96% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 389 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 185 items/100 m (52%) and 45 items/100 m (12%) respectively. Cigarette filters (32 items/100 m; 18%) and plastic / polystyrene pieces (32 items/100 m; 18%) are abundant litter types. At least 60% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 7% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 9% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 12 sites, 129 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 12 sites, 129 surveys)

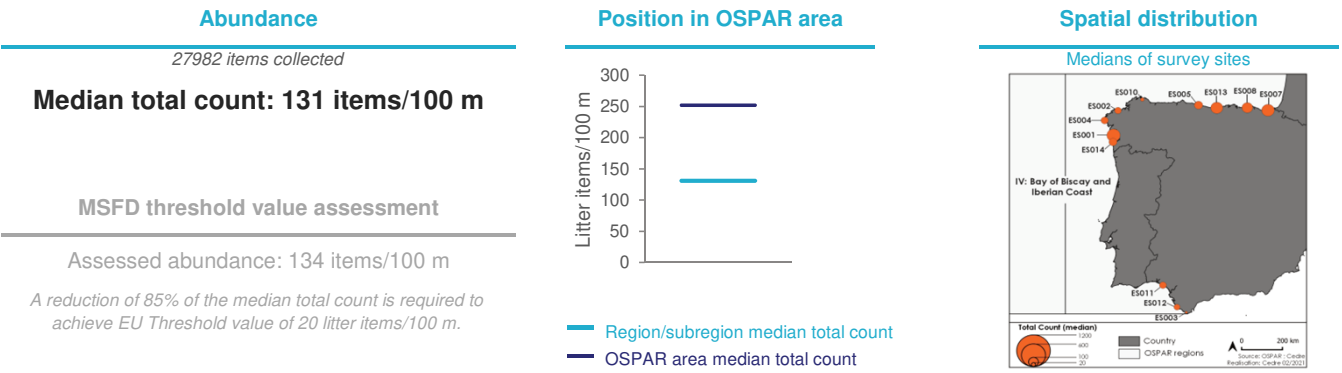
Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

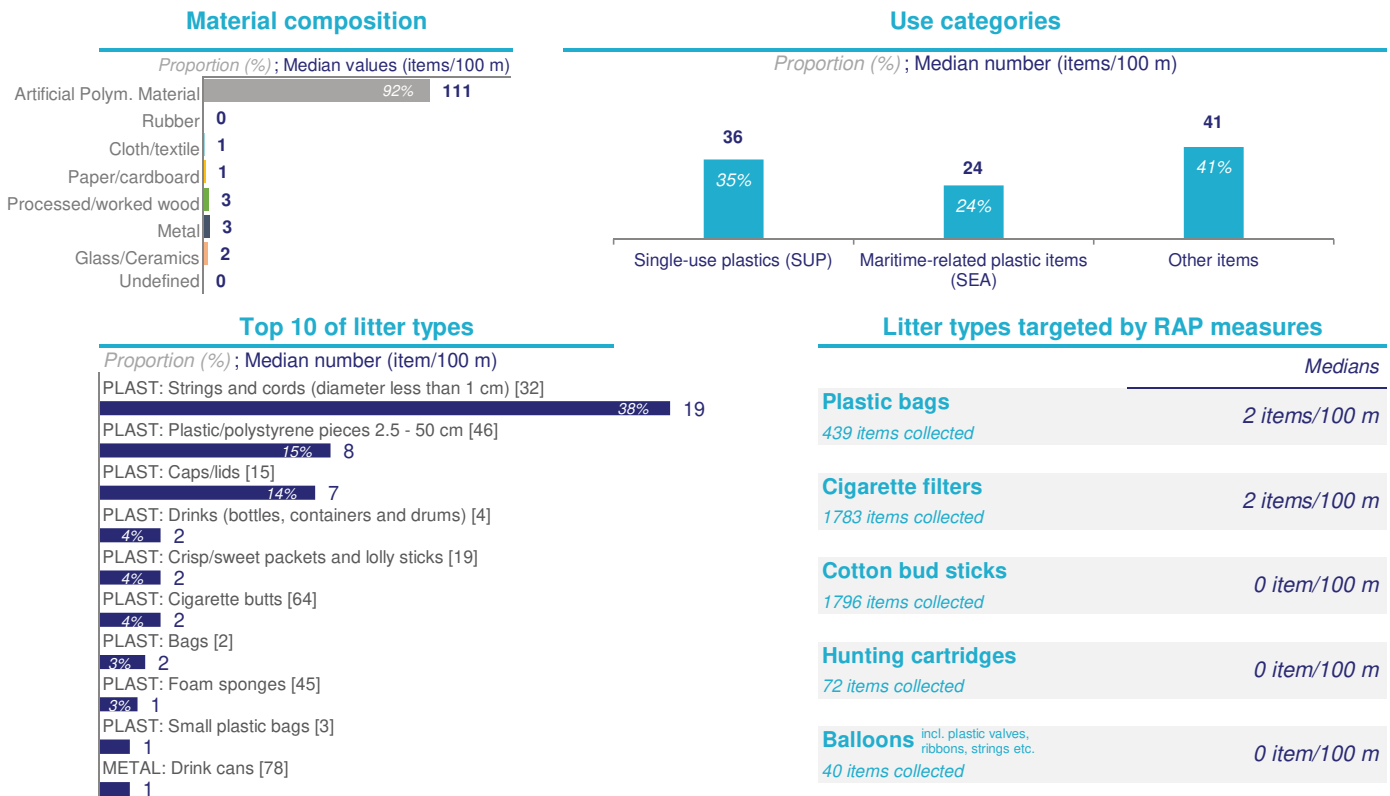
Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



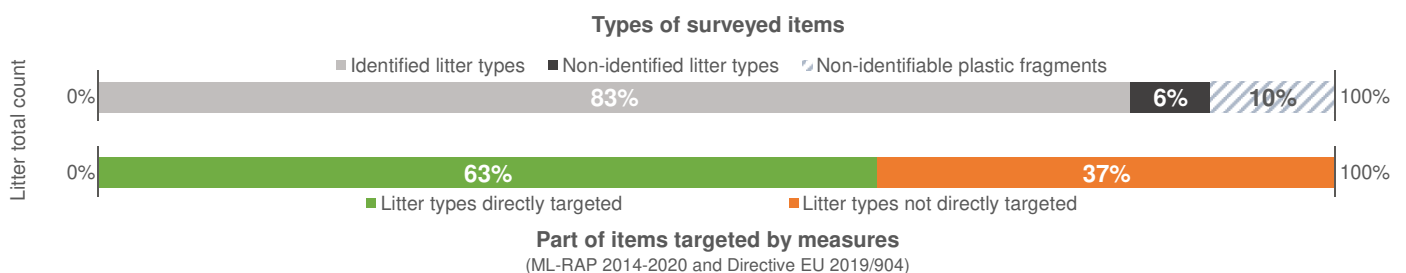
Litter abundance



Litter composition



Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage



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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 12 sites, 273 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

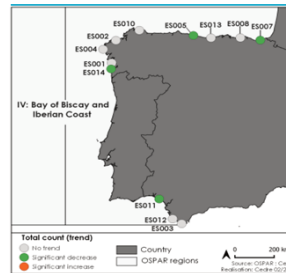
Marine subregion level



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -49 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

Site level



Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

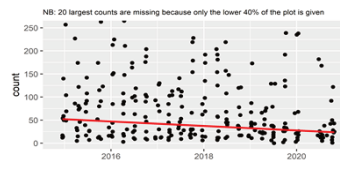
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -35 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

Single-use plastics



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -5 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

Maritime-related plastic items



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -4 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.001

Trends per litter type of interest

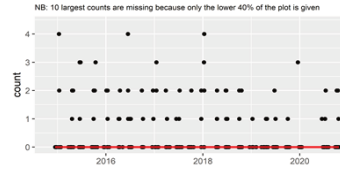
Plastic bags



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.500

Hunting cartridges

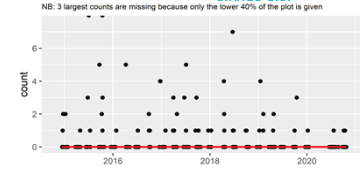


2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.009

Balloons

incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.031

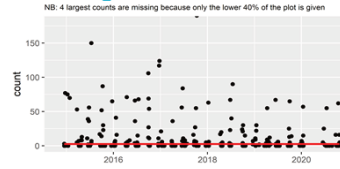
Cotton bud sticks



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.121

Cigarette filters



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.323



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast - Spain, with a median total count of 131 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 92% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 111 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 36 items/100 m (35%) and 24 items/100 m (24%) respectively. Strings and cords (19 items/100 m; 38%), plastic / polystyrene pieces (8 items/100 m; 15%) and caps and lids (7 items/100 m; 14%) are abundant litter types. At least 63% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 6% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 10% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 8 sites, 85 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 13 sites, 102 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitteR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

29377 items collected

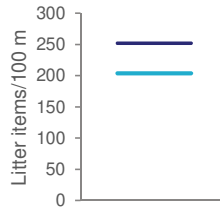
Median total count: 204 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 227 items/100 m

A reduction of 91% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

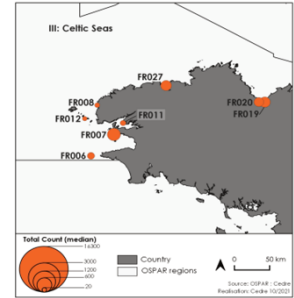
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

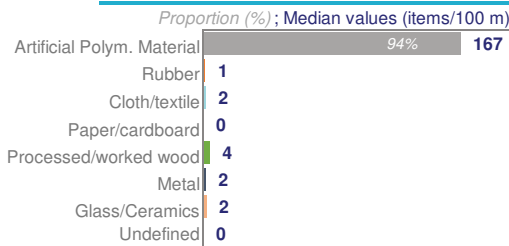
Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

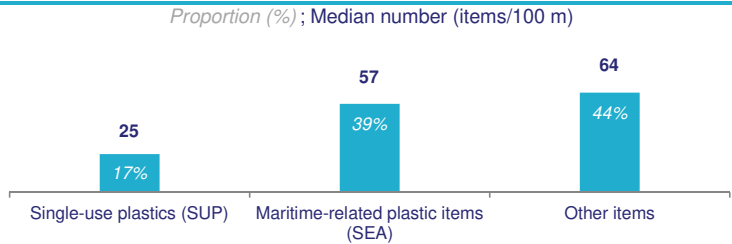


Litter composition

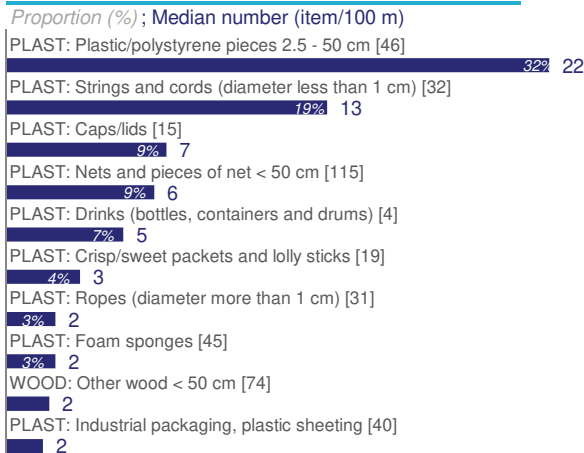
Material composition



Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

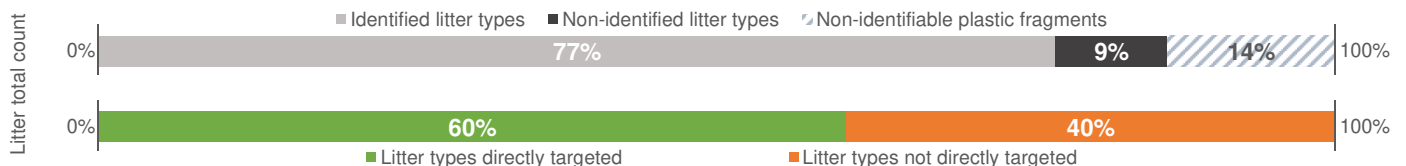


Litter types targeted by RAP measures

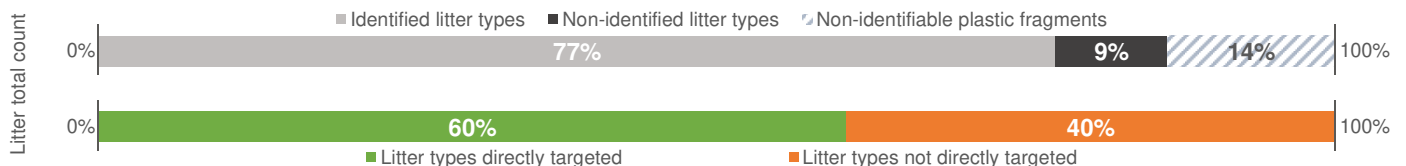
Litter type	Medians
Plastic bags 149 items collected	0 item/100 m
Cigarette filters 127 items collected	0 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks 68 items collected	0 item/100 m
Hunting cartridges 246 items collected	1 item/100 m
Balloons (incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.) 18 items collected	0 item/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures (ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)



BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 7 sites, 151 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

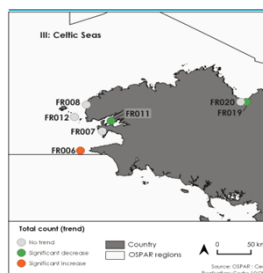
Marine subregion level



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -6 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.179

Site level



Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -3 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.214

Single-use plastics



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -3 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.020

Maritime-related plastic items



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.311

Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.585

Hunting cartridges

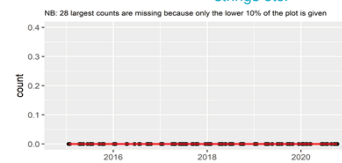


2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.247

Balloons

incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.033

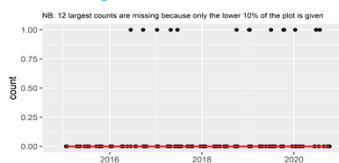
Cotton bud sticks



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.162

Cigarette filters



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.999

- Count of litter items per survey
- Theil-Sen trend line

Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Celtic Seas - France, with a median total count of 204 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 94% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 167 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 25 items/100 m (17%) and 57 items/100 m (39%) respectively. Plastic / polystyrene pieces (22 items/100 m; 33%) and strings and cords (13 items/100 m; 19%) are abundant litter types. At least 60% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 9% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 14% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 4 sites, 48 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 4 sites, 48 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitteR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

2508 items collected

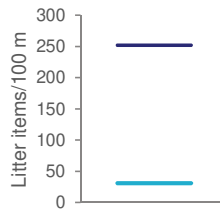
Median total count: 31 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 35 items/100 m

A reduction of 43% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

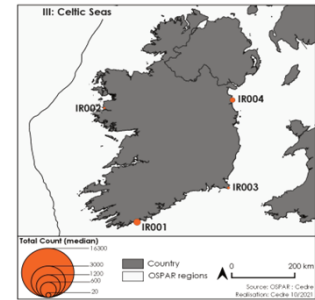
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

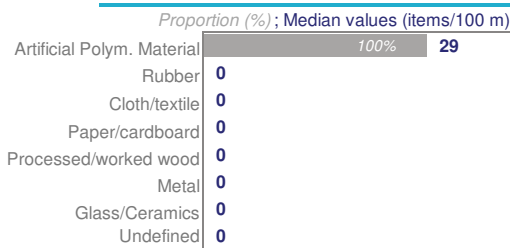
Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

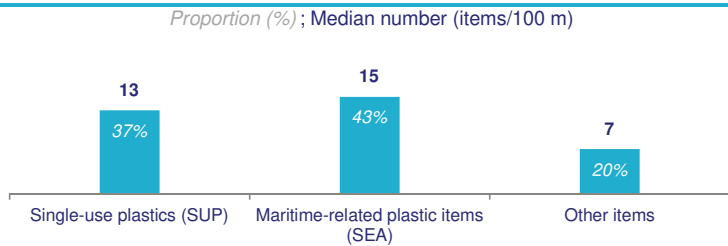


Litter composition

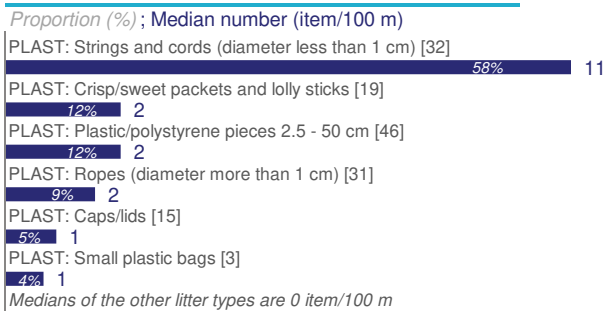
Material composition



Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

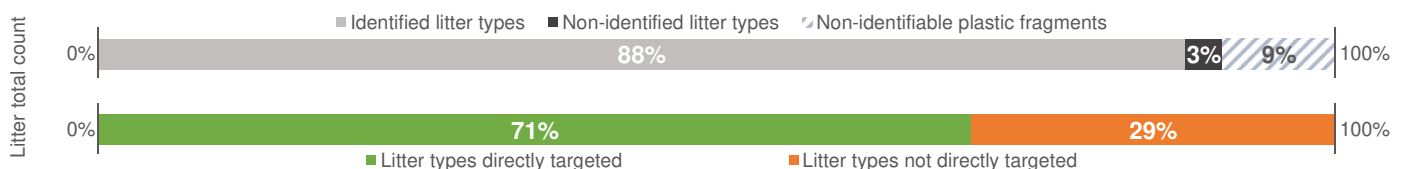


Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter Type	Medians
Plastic bags <i>28 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Cigarette filters <i>5 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks <i>1 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Hunting cartridges <i>7 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Balloons <small>incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.</small> <i>14 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures
(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS 2015-2020

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 4 sites, 96 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

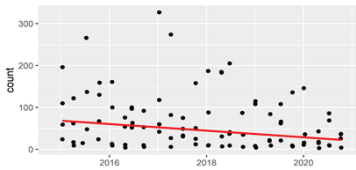
Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

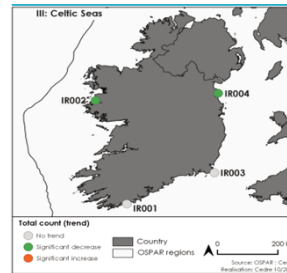
Marine subregion level



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -8 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.001

Site level

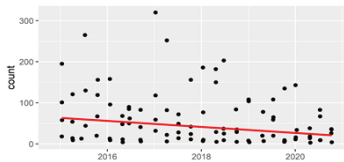


Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

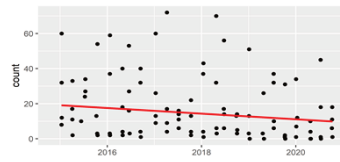
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -7 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.003

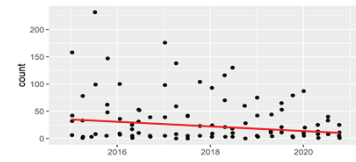
Single-use plastics



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -2 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

Maritime-related plastic items

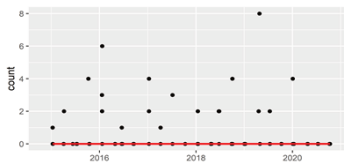


2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -4 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.055

Trends per litter type of interest

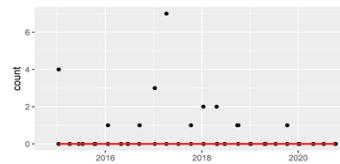
Plastic bags



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.187

Hunting cartridges

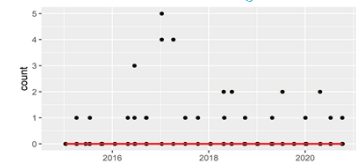


2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.145

Balloons

incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.471

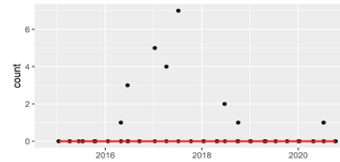
Cotton bud sticks



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.545

Cigarette filters



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.622



Key message

Beach litter is relatively low on survey sites in the subregion Celtic Seas - Ireland, with a median total count of 31 items/100 m.

Plastic material is predominant, representing 100% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 29 items/100 m.

SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 13 items/100 m (37%) and 15 items/100 m (43%) respectively.

Strings and cords (11 items/100 m; 58%) is the most abundant litter type.

At least 71% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive.

Only 3% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded.

9% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 20 sites, 191 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 22 sites, 195 surveys)

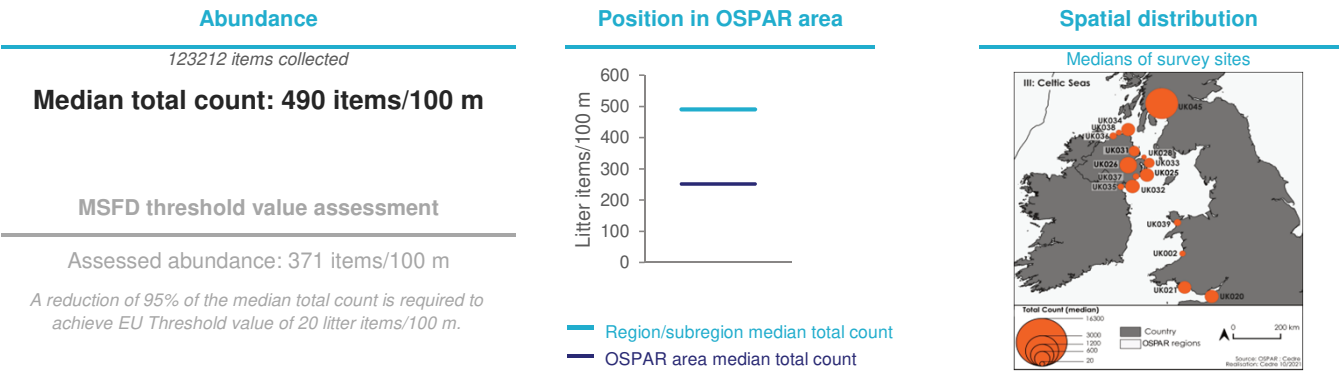
Calculation tools: LitteR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

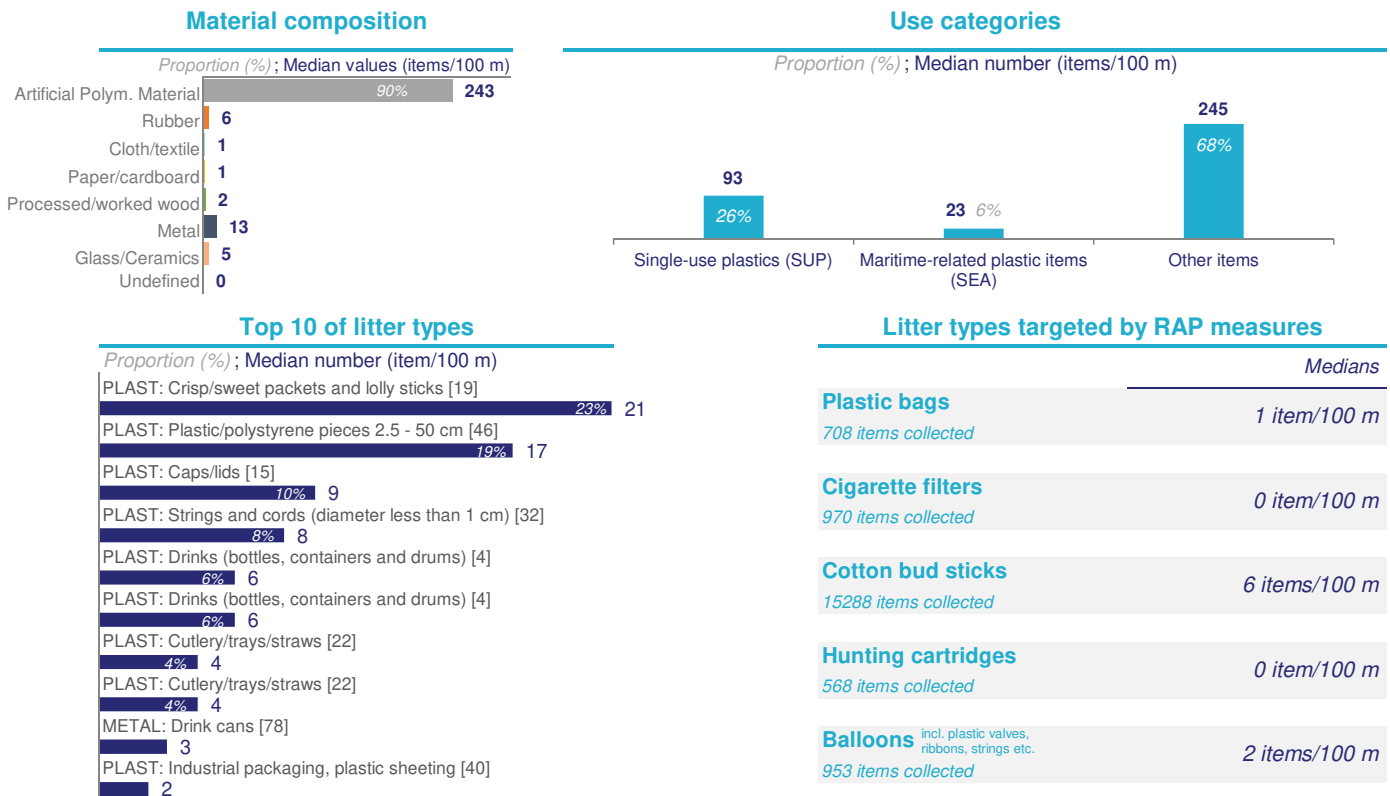
Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance



Litter composition



Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage



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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 15 sites, 283 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

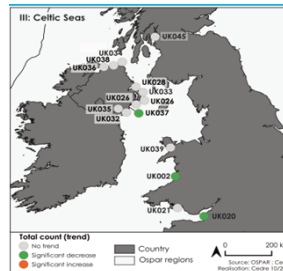
Marine subregion level



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -19 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.001

Site level

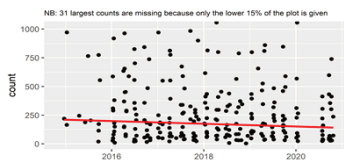


Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -12 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

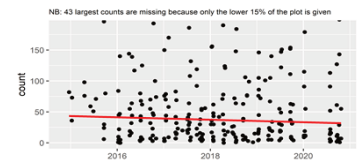
Single-use plastics



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -9 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

Maritime-related plastic items



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -2 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.001

Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

Hunting cartridges



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.003

Balloons incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.029

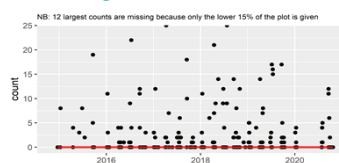
Cotton bud sticks



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.069

Cigarette filters



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.987



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Celtic Seas - United Kingdom, with a median total count of 490 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 90% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 243 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 93 items/100 m (26%) 23 items/100 m (6%) respectively. Crisps/sweets packets (21 items/100 m; 23%) and plastic / polystyrene pieces (17 items/100 m; 19%) are abundant litter types. At least 38% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 12% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 16% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 4 sites, 38 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 4 sites, 38 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

12457 items collected

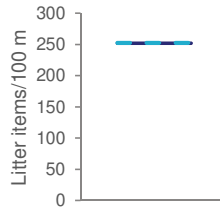
Median total count: 253 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 237 items/100 m

A reduction of 92% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

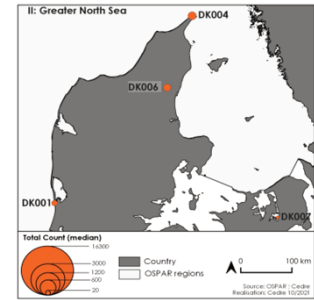
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

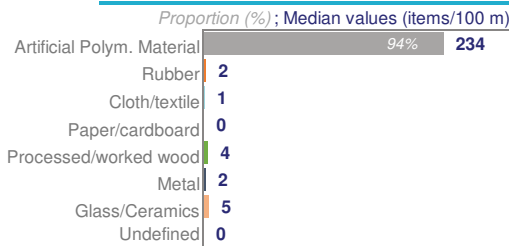
Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

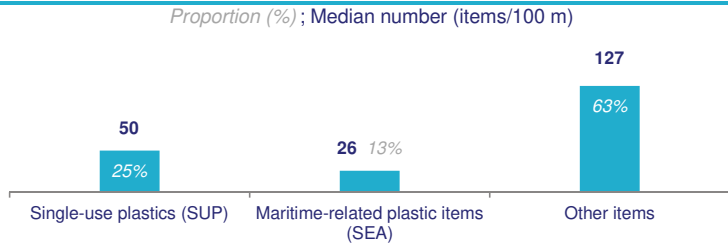


Litter composition

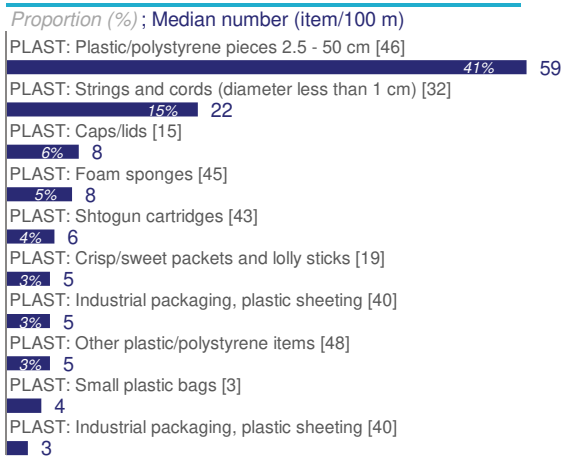
Material composition



Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

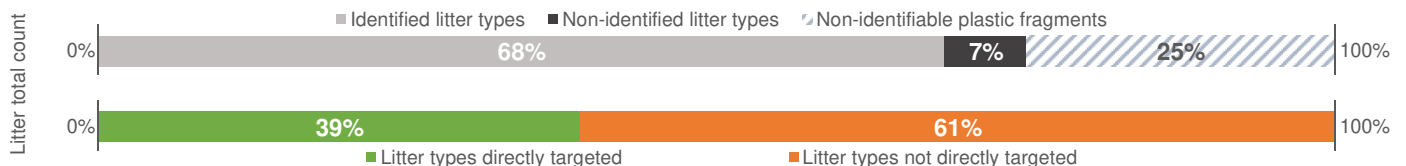


Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter Type	Medians
Plastic bags <i>113 items collected</i>	1 item/100 m
Cigarette filters <i>36 items collected</i>	1 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks <i>1022 items collected</i>	2 items/100 m
Hunting cartridges <i>298 items collected</i>	6 items/100 m
Balloons <small>incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.</small> <i>168 items collected</i>	2 items/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures
(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 3 sites, 59 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

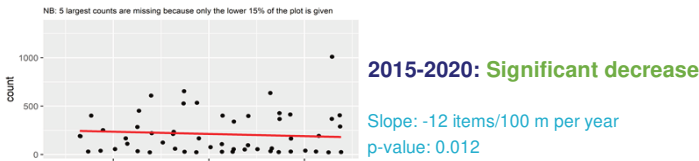
Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded

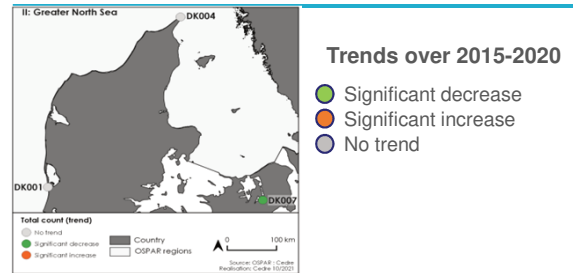


Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Marine subregion level

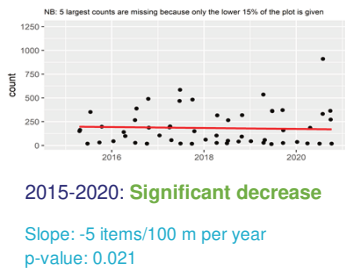


Site level

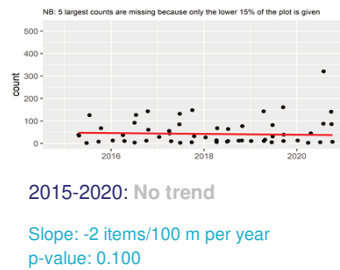


Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

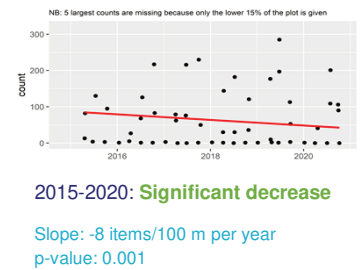
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



Single-use plastics

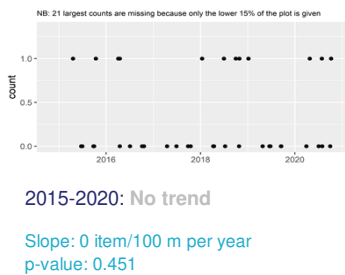


Maritime-related plastic items

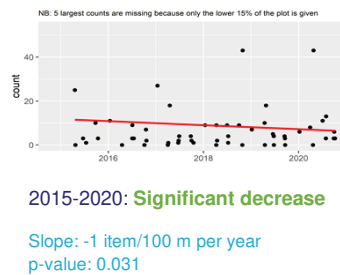


Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags

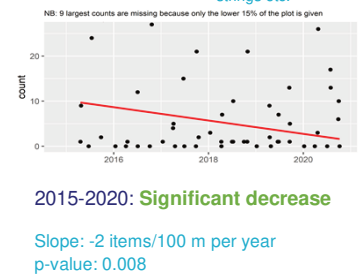


Hunting cartridges

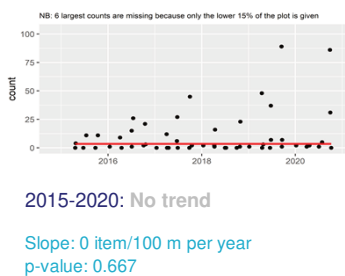


Balloons

incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



Cotton bud sticks



Cigarette filters



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Greater North Sea - Denmark, with a median total count of 253 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 94% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 234 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 50 items/100 m (25%) and 26 items/100 m (13%) respectively. Plastic / polystyrene pieces (59 items/100 m; 41%) and strings and cords (22 items/100 m; 15%) are abundant litter types. At least 39% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 7% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 25% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 5 sites, 49 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 8 sites, 61 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

60138 items collected

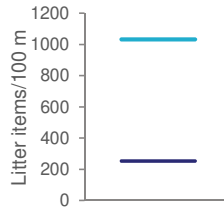
Median total count: 1032 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 610 items/100 m

A reduction of 97% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

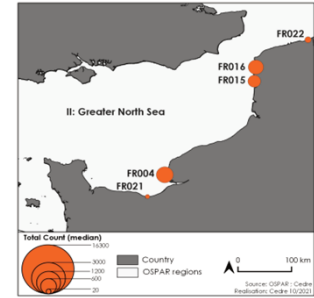
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

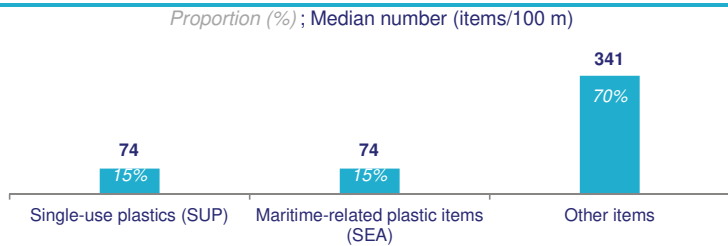


Litter composition

Material composition

Material	Proportion (%)	Median values (items/100 m)
Artificial Polym. Material	97%	990
Rubber	5	
Cloth/textile	5	
Paper/cardboard	0	
Processed/worked wood	8	
Metal	12	
Glass/Ceramics	1	
Undefined	2	

Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

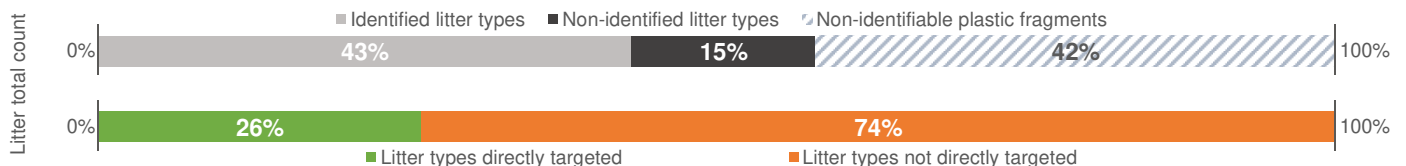
Litter type	Proportion (%)	Median number (item/100 m)
PLAST: Plastic/polystyrene pieces 2.5 - 50 cm [46]	51%	187
PLAST: Strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm) [32]	12%	45
PLAST: Caps/lids [15]	5%	18
PLAST: Other plastic/polystyrene items [48]	5%	18
PLAST: Crisp/sweet packets and lolly sticks [19]	4%	14
PLAST: Foam sponges [45]	4%	13
PLAST: Food containers incl. fast food containers [6]		9
PLAST: Drinks (bottles, containers and drums) [4]		6
PLAST: Tangled nets/cord/rope and string [33]		6
WOOD: Other wood < 50 cm [74]		6

Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter type	Medians
Plastic bags <i>75 items collected</i>	1 item/100 m
Cigarette filters <i>297 items collected</i>	3 items/100 m
Cotton bud sticks <i>315 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Hunting cartridges <i>520 items collected</i>	2 items/100 m
Balloons (incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.) <i>184 items collected</i>	2 items/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures

(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

Litter total count

■ Litter types directly targeted ■ Litter types not directly targeted

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 3 sites, 49 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

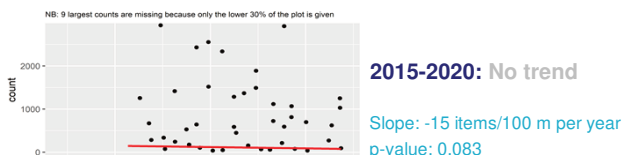
Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded

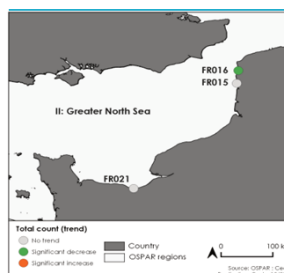


Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Marine subregion level



Site level



Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

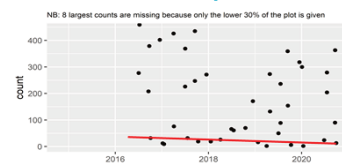
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



Single-use plastics



Maritime-related plastic items



Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags



Hunting cartridges



Balloons

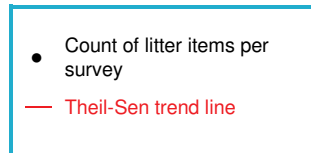
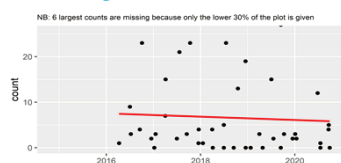
incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



Cotton bud sticks



Cigarette filters



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Greater North Sea - France, with a median total count of 1032 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 97% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 990 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 74 items/100 m (15%) and 74 items/100 m (15%) respectively. Plastic / polystyrene pieces (187 items/100 m; 51%) and strings and cords (45 items/100 m; 12%) are abundant litter types. At least 26% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 15% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 42% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 7 sites, 80 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 9 sites, 88 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundances

8111 items collected

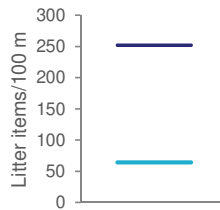
Median total count: 64 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 68 items/100 m

A reduction of 70% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

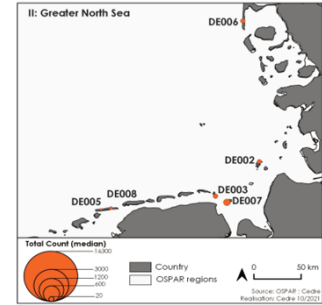
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

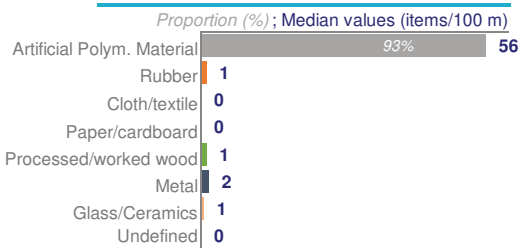
Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

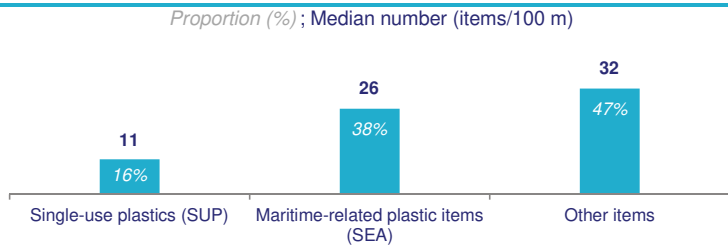


Litter composition

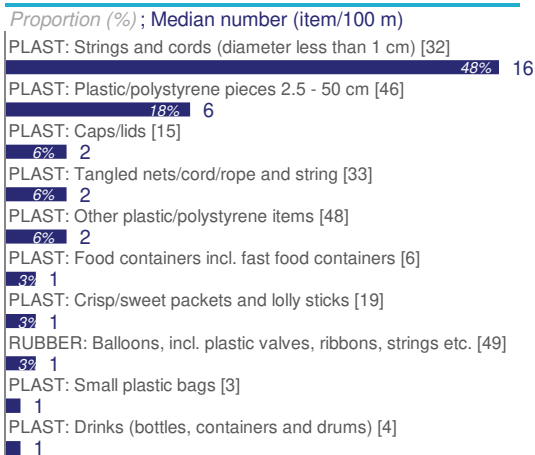
Material composition



Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

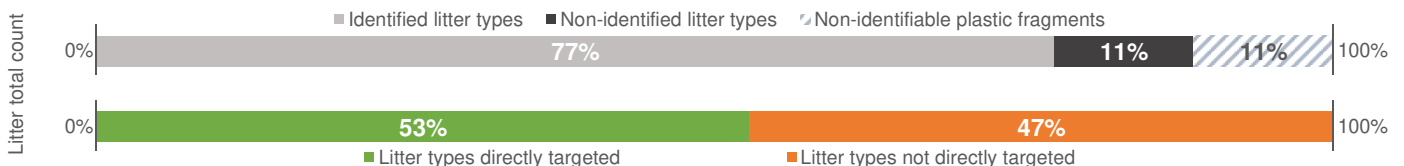


Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter Type	Medians
Plastic bags <i>58 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Cigarette filters <i>50 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks <i>53 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Hunting cartridges <i>17 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Balloons <small>incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.</small> <i>152 items collected</i>	1 item/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures
(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 4 sites, 88 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

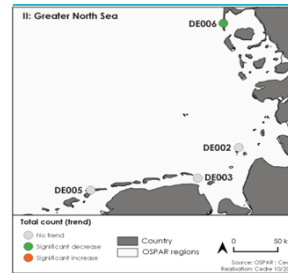
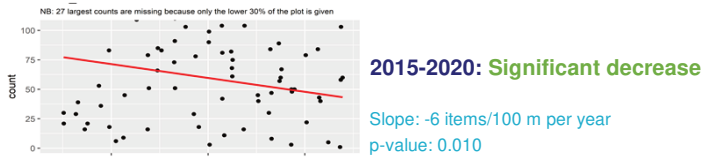
Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

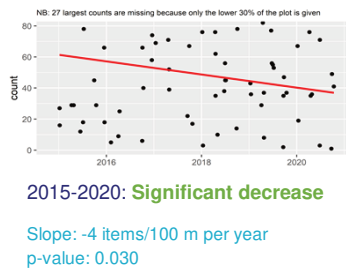
Marine subregion level



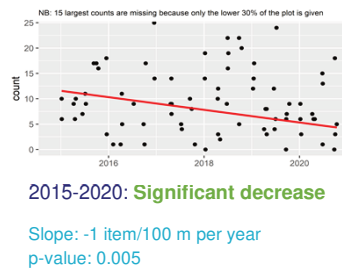
Site level

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

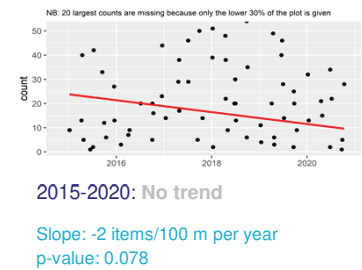
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



Single-use plastics

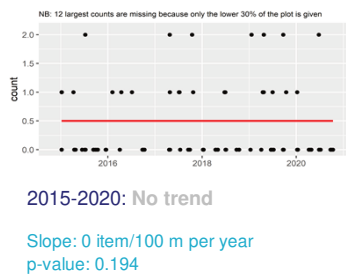


Maritime-related plastic items



Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags

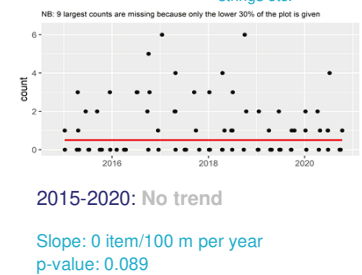


Hunting cartridges

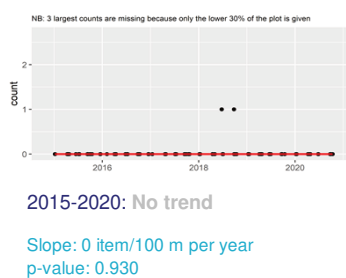


Balloons

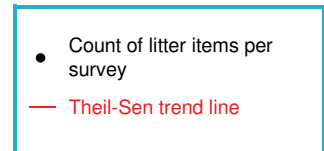
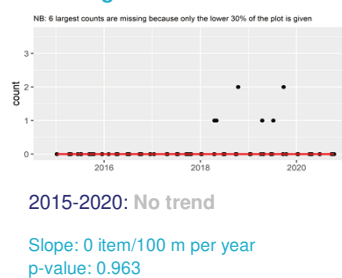
incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



Cotton bud sticks



Cigarette filters



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Greater North Sea - Germany, with a median total count of 64 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 93% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 56 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 11 items/100 m (16%) and 26 items/100 m (38%) respectively. String and cords (16 items/100 m; 48%) and plastic / polystyrene pieces (6 items/100 m; 18%) are abundant litter types. At least 53% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 11% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 11% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 4 sites, 47 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 4 sites, 47 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

9102 items collected

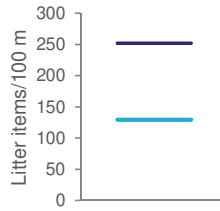
Median total count: 130 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 135 items/100 m

A reduction of 85% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

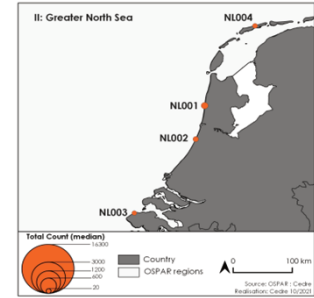
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

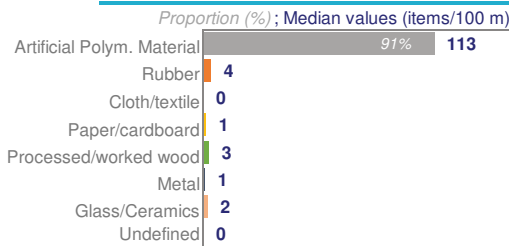
Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

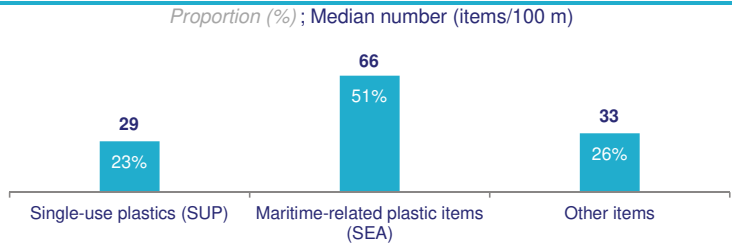


Litter composition

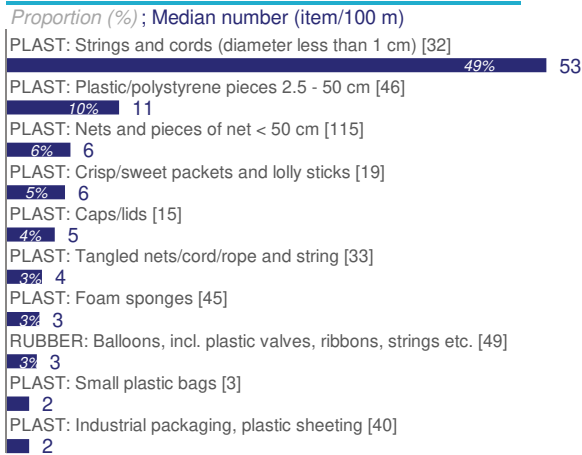
Material composition



Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

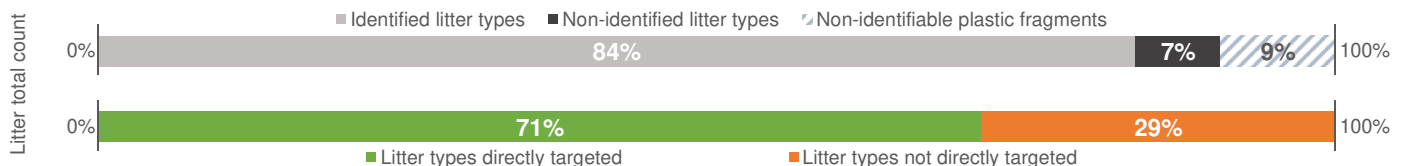


Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter Type	Medians
Plastic bags 66 items collected	1 item/100 m
Cigarette filters 123 items collected	1 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks 340 items collected	1 item/100 m
Hunting cartridges 83 items collected	0 item/100 m
Balloons (incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.) 235 items collected	3 items/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures
(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 4 sites, 95 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

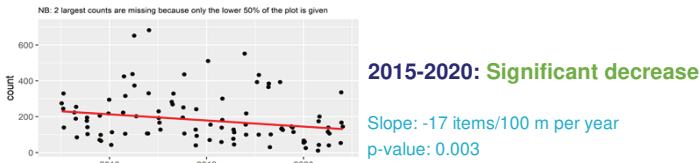
Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Marine subregion level

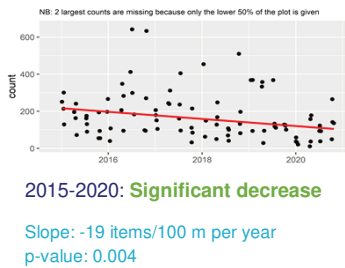


Site level

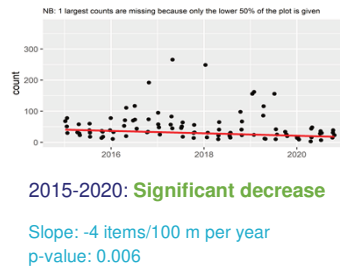


Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

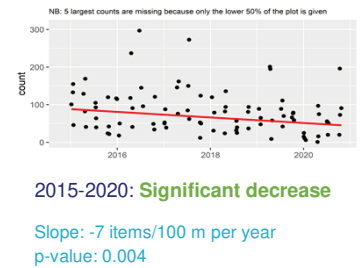
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



Single-use plastics

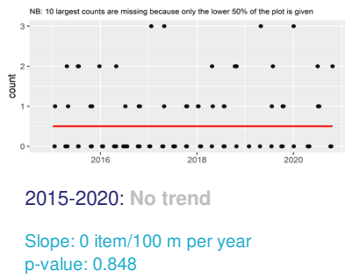


Maritime-related plastic items



Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags

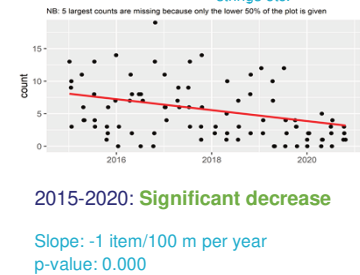


Hunting cartridges



Balloons

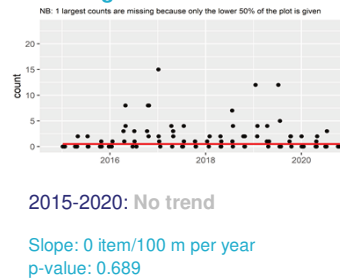
incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



Cotton bud sticks



Cigarette filters



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Greater North Sea - Netherlands, with a median total count of 130 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 91% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 113 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 29 items/100 m (23%) and 66 items/100 m (51%) respectively. Strings and cords (53 items/100 m, 49%) and plastic / polystyrene pieces (11 items/100 m; 10%) are abundant litter types. At least 71% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 7% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 9% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 1 site, 6 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 2 sites, 9 surveys)

Calculation tools: LiteR package and Excel

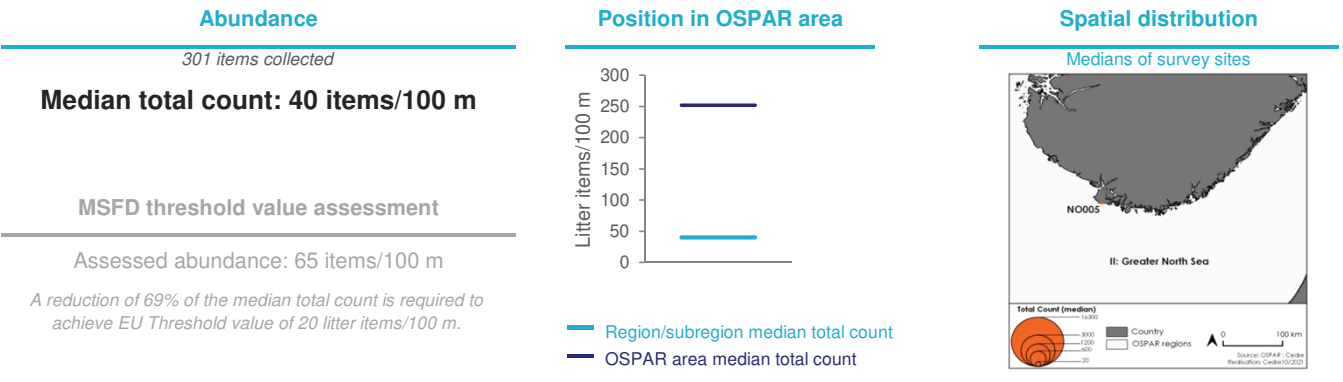
Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately

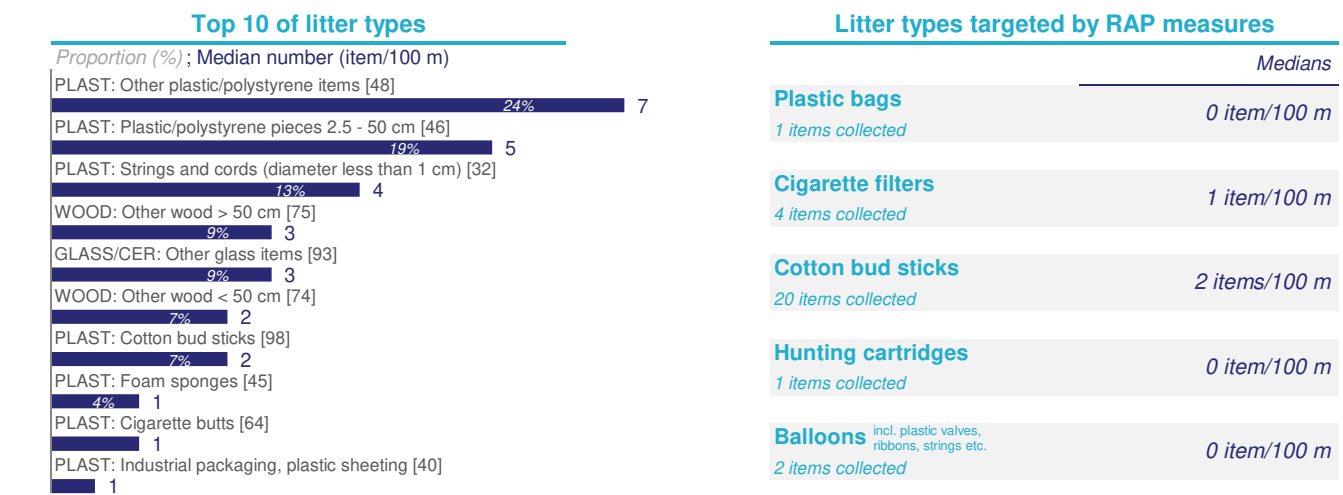
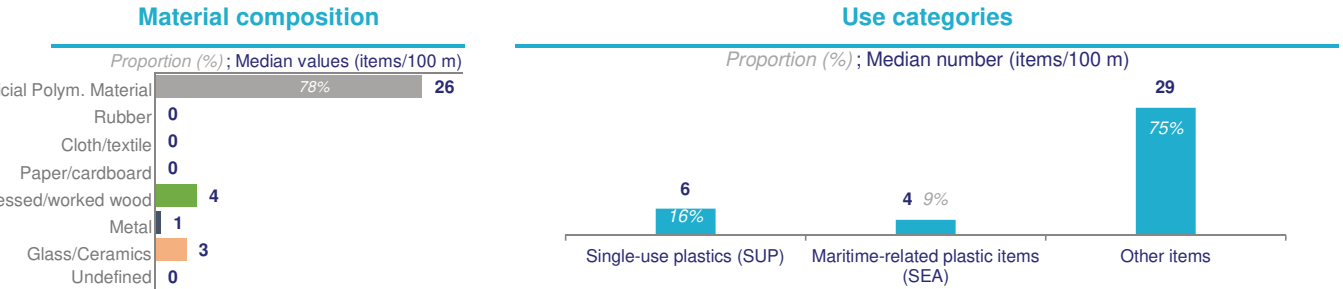


This pollution status is provided for information only due to a limited number of site.

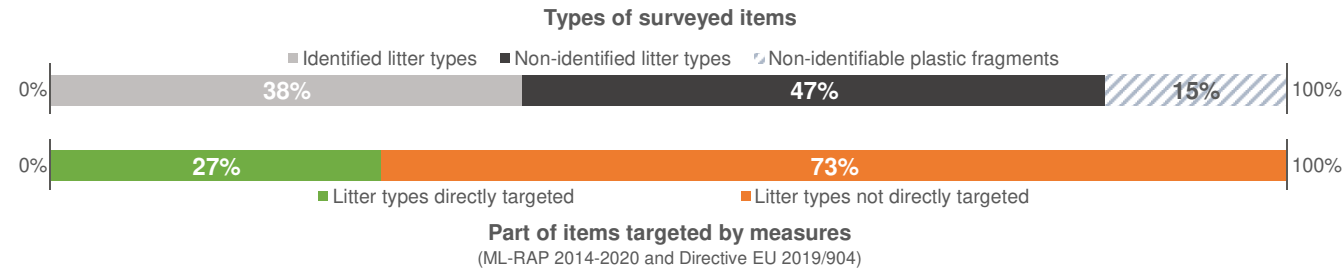
Litter abundance



Litter composition



Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage



Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 1 sites, 12 surveys

Calculation tools: LitterR package of R and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

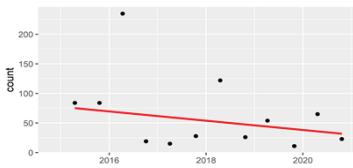
Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded

These trends are provided for information only due to a limited number of site.



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

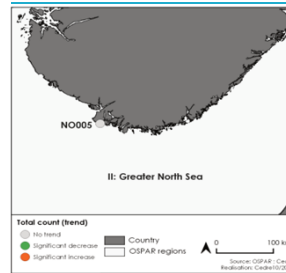
Marine subregion level



2015-2020: No trend

Slope: -8 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.136

Site level

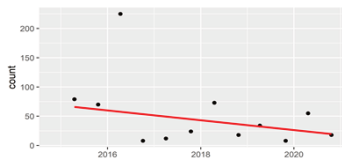


Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

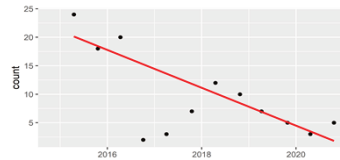
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



2015-2020: No trend

Slope: -8 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.151

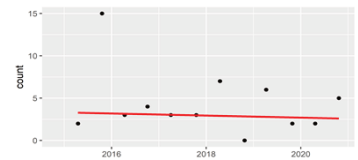
Single-use plastics



2015-2020: Significant decrease

Slope: -3 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.036

Maritime-related plastic items

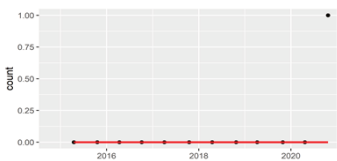


2015-2020: No trend

Slope: -0.1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.364

Trends per litter type of interest

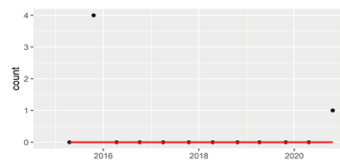
Plastic bags



2015-2020: No trend

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.926

Hunting cartridges

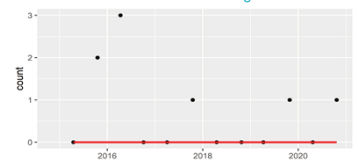


2015-2020: No trend

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.500

Balloons

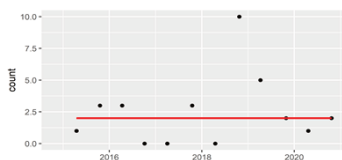
incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



2015-2020: No trend

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.408

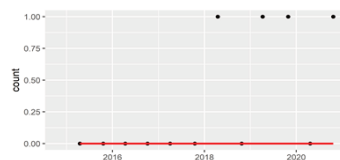
Cotton bud sticks



2015-2020: No trend

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.583

Cigarette filters



2015-2020: No trend

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.975

● Count of litter items per survey
— Theil-Sen trend line

Key message

Beach litter is relatively low on survey sites in the subregion Greater North Sea - Norway, with a median total count of 40 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 78% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 26 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 6 items/100 m (16%) and 4 items/100 m (9%) respectively. Other plastic / polystyrene items (7 items/100 m; 24%), plastic / polystyrene pieces (5 items/100 m; 19%) and strings and cords (4 items/100 m; 13%) are abundant litter types. At least 27% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. 47% of the litter items are not identified. 15% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

Disclaimer: the present factsheet is provided for information only. It does not represent an official reporting.

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 6 sites, 54 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 6 sites, 54 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

535986 items collected

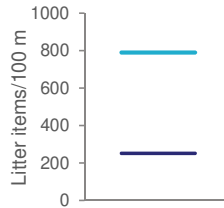
Median total count: 790 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 806 items/100 m

A reduction of 98% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

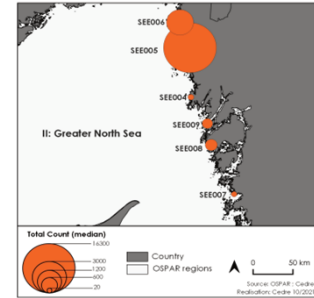
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

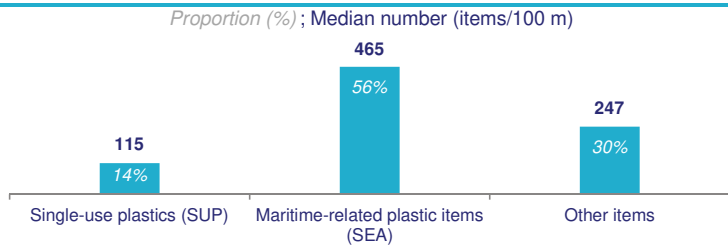


Litter composition

Material composition

Material	Proportion (%)	Median values (items/100 m)
Artificial Polym. Material	97%	771
Rubber	11	
Cloth/textile	1	
Paper/cardboard	1	
Processed/worked wood	7	
Metal	2	
Glass/Ceramics	2	
Undefined	0	

Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

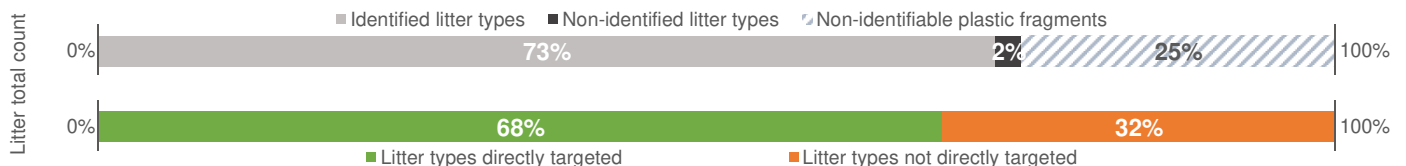
Litter type	Proportion (%)	Median number (item/100 m)
PLAST: Strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm) [32]	55%	425
PLAST: Plastic/polystyrene pieces 2.5 - 50 cm [46]	26%	202
PLAST: Crisp/sweet packets and lolly sticks [19]	4%	31
PLAST: Caps/lids [15]	4%	29
PLAST: Small plastic bags [3]		13
RUBBER: Balloons, incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc. [49]		10
PLAST: Strapping bands [39]		7
PLAST: Strapping bands [39]		7
PLAST: Cotton bud sticks [98]		7
PLAST: Ropes (diameter more than 1 cm) [31]		7

Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter type	Medians
Plastic bags 420 items collected	4 items/100 m
Cigarette filters 71 items collected	0 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks 12567 items collected	7 items/100 m
Hunting cartridges 3583 items collected	3 items/100 m
Balloons (incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.) 5428 items collected	10 items/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures
(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 6 sites, 105 surveys

Calculation tools: LitterR package of R and Excel

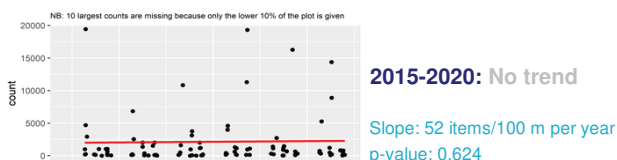
Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded

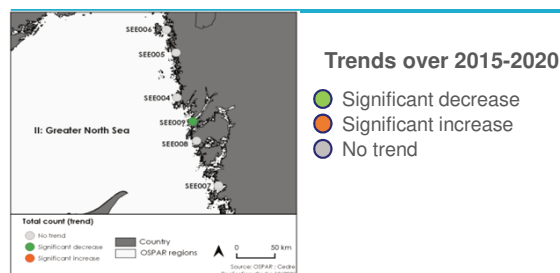


Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Marine subregion level

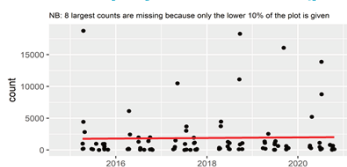


Site level

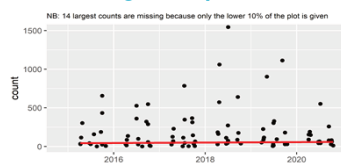


Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



Single-use plastics



Maritime-related plastic items

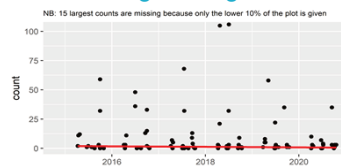


Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags



Hunting cartridges



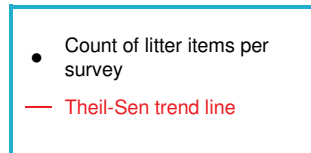
Balloons



Cotton bud sticks



Cigarette filters



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Greater North Sea - Sweden, with a median total count of 790 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 97% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 771 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 115 items/100 m (14%) and 465 items/100 m (56%) respectively. Strings and cords (425 items/100 m; 55%) and plastic / polystyrene pieces (202 items/100 m; 26%) are abundant litter types. At least 68% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 2% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 25% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 6 sites, 52 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 10 sites, 63 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

46490 items collected

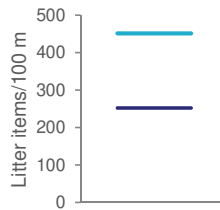
Median total count: 452 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 369 items/100 m

A reduction of 95% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

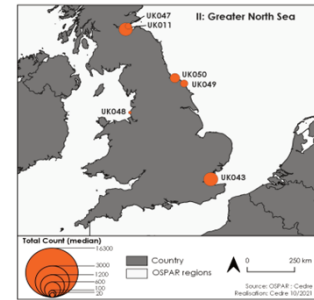
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

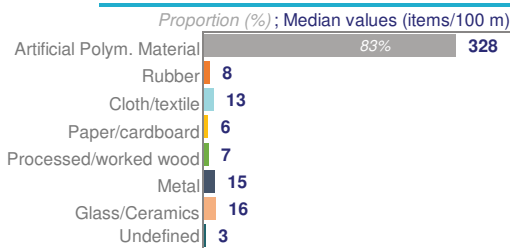
Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

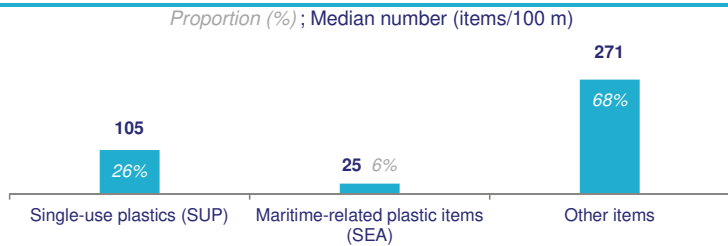


Litter composition

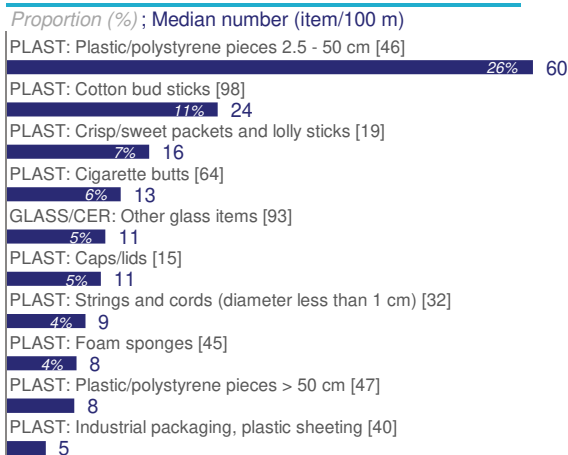
Material composition



Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

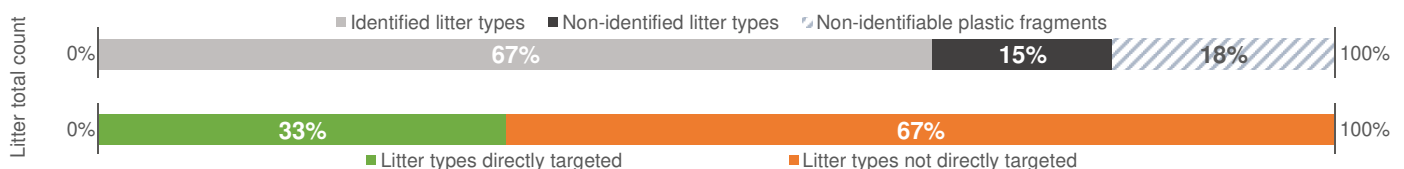


Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter Type	Medians
Plastic bags 367 items collected	2 items/100 m
Cigarette filters 2707 items collected	13 items/100 m
Cotton bud sticks 3556 items collected	24 items/100 m
Hunting cartridges 81 items collected	1 item/100 m
Balloons (incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.) 190 items collected	1 item/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures
(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 6 sites, 119 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

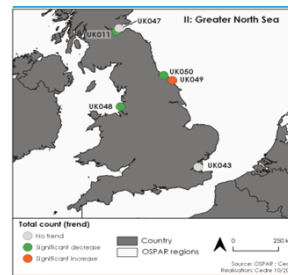
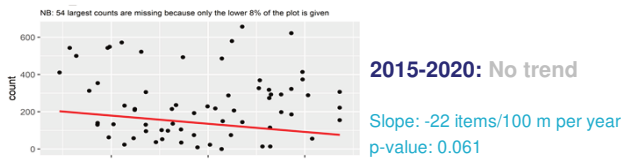
Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Marine subregion level



Site level

Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



Single-use plastics



Maritime-related plastic items



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -14 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.032

2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -10 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.002

2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -2 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.069

Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.003

Hunting cartridges

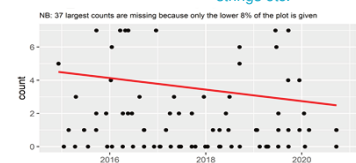


2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.101

Balloons

incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.013

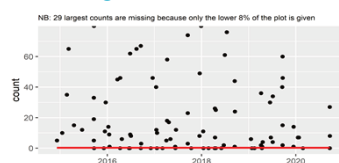
Cotton bud sticks



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.096

Cigarette filters



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.221



Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the subregion Greater North Sea - United Kingdom, with a median total count of 452 items/100 m.

Plastic material is predominant, representing 83% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 328 items/100 m.

SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 105 items/100 m (26%) and 25 items/100 m (6%) respectively.

Plastic / polystyrene pieces (60 items/100 m; 25%), cotton bud sticks (24 items/100; 11%) and crisps/sweets packets (16 items/100; 7%) are abundant litter types.

At least 33% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive.

Only 15% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded.

18% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION STATUS (2018-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020

Number of sites and surveys: 6 sites, 56 surveys (for MSFD TV assessment: 6 sites, 56 surveys)

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp/>); beach macrolitter and mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are assessed and presented separately



Litter abundance

Abundance

4087 items collected

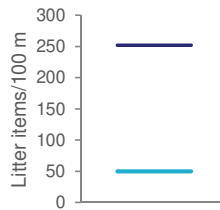
Median total count: 50 items/100 m

MSFD threshold value assessment

Assessed abundance: 51 items/100 m

A reduction of 61% of the median total count is required to achieve EU Threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

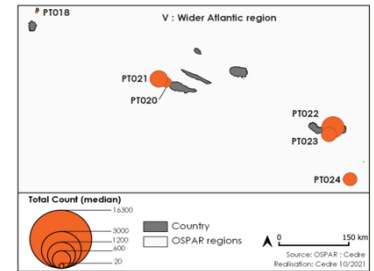
Position in OSPAR area



— Region/subregion median total count
— OSPAR area median total count

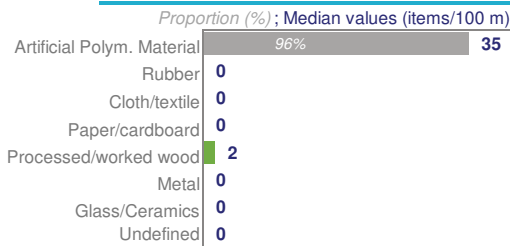
Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites

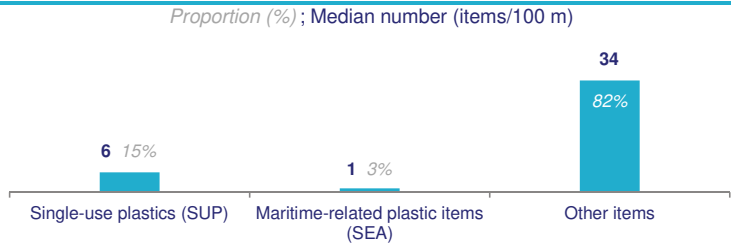


Litter composition

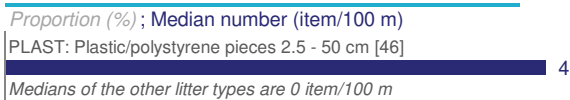
Material composition



Use categories



Top 10 of litter types

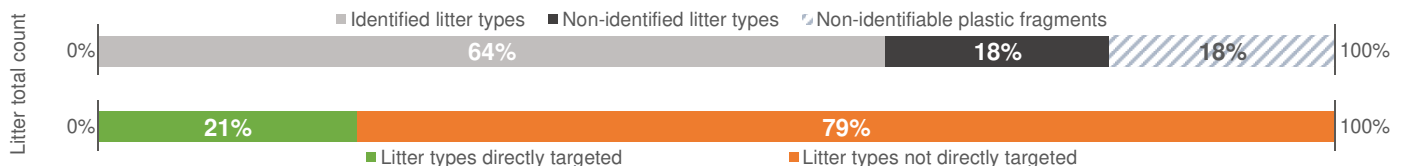


Litter types targeted by RAP measures

Litter type	Medians
Plastic bags <i>28 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Cigarette filters <i>180 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks <i>0 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Hunting cartridges <i>40 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m
Balloons <small>incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.</small> <i>0 items collected</i>	0 item/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures
(ML-RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

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BEACH LITTER POLLUTION TRENDS (2015-2020)

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 6 sites, 103 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter survey list, version 2010

Assessment format: mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Trends in total count (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

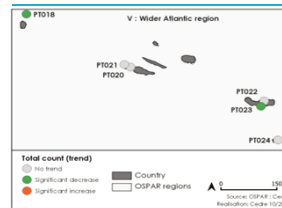
Marine subregion level



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -11 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

Site level



Trends over 2015-2020

- Significant decrease
- Significant increase
- No trend

Trends per category of interest (mesoplastic fragments excluded)

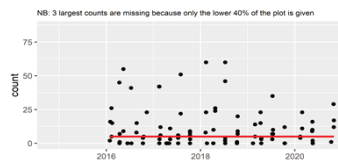
Artificial polymer materials (plastics)



2015-2020: **Significant decrease**

Slope: -11 items/100 m per year
p-value: 0.000

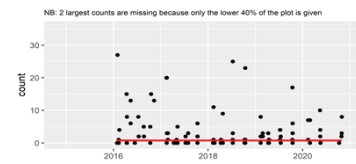
Single-use plastics



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.037

Maritime-related plastic items



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.134

Trends per litter type of interest

Plastic bags



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.022

Hunting cartridges

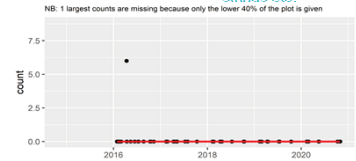


2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.209

Balloons

incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: -1 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.042

Cotton bud sticks



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.062

Cigarette filters



2015-2020: **No trend**

Slope: 0 item/100 m per year
p-value: 0.711

● Count of litter items per survey

— Theil-Sen trend line

Key message

Beach litter is relatively low on survey sites in the subregion Wider Atlantic - Portugal, with a median total count of 50 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 96% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 35 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 6 items/100 m (15%) and 1 item/100 m (3%) respectively. Plastic / polystyrene pieces (4 items/100 m) are the only significant litter types. At least 21% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 18% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 18% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.