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## OSPAR TACKLES MARINE LITTER POLLUTION

### Why is this important?

Litter is found everywhere in the marine environment, on shorelines (including beaches), at the sea surface, in the water column, on the seabed and in marine wildlife, even in remote uninhabited areas. Marine litter has been identified as one of the pressing challenges of our time and there is a predominance of plastics among marine litter that is reported across all OSPAR Regions. Plastic litter breaks down very slowly into ever smaller pieces of micro and nanoplastics. The smaller it gets the more difficult, if not impossible, it becomes to remove litter particles.

Marine litter levels are still high in the OSPAR aritime Area and further efforts are needed.

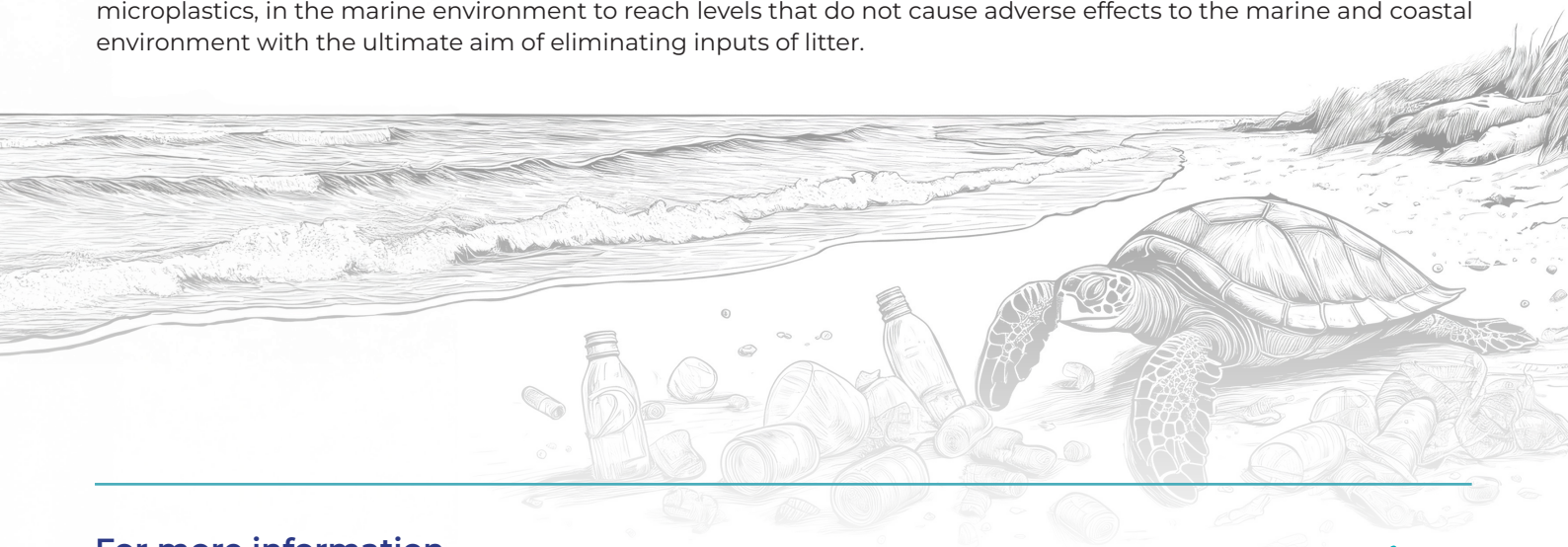
### What is OSPAR doing?

OSPAR has been at the forefront of international efforts to tackle the marine litter problem for the past decade. Its Second Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter adopted in 2022 will run until 2030 and is composed of 25 coordinated and collective actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine litter in the North-East Atlantic.

In 2025, OSPAR is strengthening its action to tackle marine litter pollution by adopting a Recommendation on the application of best practice to reduce marine litter, new dedicated best practice for the use of biomedica in wastewater treatment plants, a report furthering its understanding of the use of chafing gear with a focus on dolly ropes. OSPAR is also adopting a progress report on the implementation of its Regional Action Plan to ensure OSPAR is targeting its work on those issues where it can most add value.

### How will this benefit the North-East Atlantic?

By adopting new collective measures and harmonising practices, OSPAR's Contracting Parties are actively working towards achieving their shared objective of preventing inputs of and significantly reduce marine litter, including microplastics, in the marine environment to reach levels that do not cause adverse effects to the marine and coastal environment with the ultimate aim of eliminating inputs of litter.



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