

Introduction to the topic: **MARINE LITTER**

Georg Martin
Estonian Marine Institute

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CENTRAL BALTIC
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Definitions

Marine litter (debris):

all objects that do not naturally occur in the marine and coastal environment – water surface, water column, seabed, shore – but are nevertheless found there.

Marine litter is any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment.

Marine debris, also known as **marine litter**, is human-created waste that has deliberately or accidentally been released in a lake, sea, ocean or waterway.

Some facts on global scale

80% of marine litter originates from landbased sources

70% of marine litter sinks

- found on the seabed in both shallow coastal waters and the deep sea

Almost 90% of floating marine debris is plastic

The majority of litter (more than 50%) found at sea or on beaches is made of plastic

[72% in Hawaii – McDermid and McMullen (2004)]

Political instruments

MSFD

ANNEX I

Qualitative descriptors for determining good environmental status
(referred to in Articles 3(5), 9(1), 9(3) and 24)

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(10) Properties and quantities of **marine litter** do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment.

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Extent of the problem in the Baltic Sea area

Results of the analyses of questionnaire prepared by GES-REG project WP2 for evaluating coherence of MSFD Art 8, 9 and 10 reporting – answers received from EST, LV, LT, FIN, DE, POL

- **No quantitative GES descriptions for MSFD D10 (Marine litter) available in all countries except Poland,**
- **Lack of information on extent of the problem reported by all reporting countries.**



Extent of the problem in the Baltic Sea area

HELCOM Roof Report:

„Main gaps of the Initial Assessments relate to underwater noise and marine litter.“

„So far HELCOM work does not cover marine litter and underwater noise.“

„There is also insufficient or no monitoring at national or HELCOM level for marine litter and underwater noise.“

„Marine litter and underwater noise are currently not adequately covered at national or regional level.“

