



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Joint Research Centre
Institute for Environment and Sustainability
Water Resources Unit

REPORT FROM THE 10TH MEETING OF THE
MSFD TECHNICAL GROUP ON MARINE LITTER (TG ML)

PALERMO, ITALY

6.-7.4.2016

The 10th meeting of the Technical Group on Marine Litter (TG ML) was held from 06.4.2016 until 07.04.2015 in Palermo, Sicily. The 25 participants represented DG ENV, EC JRC, EEA, 8 Member States (Italy, United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, France), RSCs (OSPAR, HELCOM and Barcelona Convention) and NGOs (EUCC, Seas at Risk, Surfrider Foundation, Project AWARE). Apologies from JPI Oceans and DG RTD whose delegates due to constraints travelling from Brussels could not attend.

After a kind welcome by Franco Andaloro (ISPRA, Italy) and Alessandra di Caro, François Galgani (group chair, IFREMER, France) opened the meeting, followed by a tour de table. Georg Hanke (co-chair, JRC) provided the background for the agenda of the meeting, group's current and future work items.

MSFD D10 – STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ REVISION OF COMDEC 2010/477/EU

Michail Papadoyannakis (DG ENV) briefed the group on the latest status of the MSFD D10 implementation. Presently, wide public attention to the issue of ML and timely in the implementation of MSFD: Programmes of Measures are being received and the 2nd cycle of implementation is being prepared. The technical phase of the MSFD Commission Decision 2010/477/EU review process is concluded and the reports outcome (outstanding issues, way forward and tentative revised text) is being reviewed, followed by the comments received by Member States. MSFD Commission Decision 2010/477/EU review/revision is ongoing, now considering the comments received. It is very important to receive technical advice for the implementation and development of the ComDec revision and to plan the next phase of the MSFD. Some key topics are relevant and deserve the attention of TG ML that were addressed during the present meeting including a list of questions raised by Member States. In terms of timetable, the draft revised Commission Decision 2010/477/EU submitted early March to the MS, the comments are being addressed and a new version will be submitted for the Marine Directors in June 2016. The group will provide feedback also including Member States not attending this meeting.

On 7th April at the MSCG meeting the programme of work, including the TG's ToR for 2016-2018 will be discussed and it is expected that TG ML will continue to play a relevant role also in relation to the proposal for a Circular Economy package and action plan issued last December and to the future EC work on a Plastic Strategy.

G7 ACTIVITIES ON MARINE LITTER

Stefanie Werner (co-chair, UBA, Germany) presented the activities of the G7's on marine litter: In 2015, German Presidency introduced among others, items on the protection of the marine environment with (key issues marine litter and deep sea mining). Two deliverables were agreed on: A socio-economic study which was carried out under the auspices of UNEP (to be published in first half 2016) and an Action Plan to combat Marine Litter (part of Elmau Declaration). 3 workshops have been organised to develop the AP, derive 65 possible measures from the wider action fields and prioritize them together with relevant stakeholders. 5 specific measures were identified to start with (share best practise with regard to waste management (regional extension to G20

countries and APEC), sustainable financing/financing strategies (close cooperation with IFIs), integrated projects, IMP workshop addressing sea-based sources and a marine litter monitoring workshop). The ML monitoring workshop on the standardisation and harmonisation of monitoring programmes was held in Tokyo in January this year, a few TGML members took part as representatives for G7 nations. The work done by TG ML was very well received and form a major part of the outcome. ML is a strong part in the G7 Elmau declaration - 3 pages dedicated to ML in total of 17 pages - with the EU (observer status) and some MS being involved, bringing the work of TG ML into the process. The main aim is to share information and knowledge, and further develop ideas/actions together. Action: a new folder in Basecamp will be created to share information about the G7 Marine Litter process.

REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION/DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL ACTION PLANS

The important role of Regional Sea Conventions and their Regional Action Plans RAPs was emphasized. Members of the Marine Litter working group in HELCOM (Per Nilsson, Stefanie Werner), OSPAR (Stefanie Werner (co-chair), Per Nilsson, François Galgani, Thomas Maes, David Fleet), and the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention (Tatjana Hema) were present. The Black Sea Commission was not represented.

HELCOM

The RAP ML has been adopted in 2015, first lead and co-lead countries are identified for various actions. ML is treated in two working groups: PRESSURE (focus on implementation of the RAP ML) and State & Conservation (focus on further development of indicators). There are 3 indicators identified. For Beach litter as pre-core indicator the GES criteria anticipated as ready for use in HOLAS II three options are being looked at: establishment of decreasing temporal trends of beach litter, identification of the cleanest beach in the Baltic Seas as the baseline for subsequent comparison with others and setting a fixed number to aim at. Litter on the seafloor and micro litter in the water column are candidate core indicators, where the indicator development will not be able to proceed according to HOLAS II time-table. However, the aim is to present descriptive information from available data sources and compare the situation with other regional seas.

OSPAR

An update of the implementation plan of the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and Intermediate Assessments for the OSPAR common indicators for marine litter have been prepared for EIHA 2016, which are each litter, plastic particles in Fulmars stomachs and Seabed/ International Benthic Trawl Surveys. These three IA are ready for approval by EIHA. Ingestion of litter by turtles is furthermore proposed to EIHA for adoption as a candidate indicator. Furthermore the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter is working on a potential new indicator on plastic particles in fish stomachs.

In terms of the RAP ML a Background Document on Action 34 which aims to *improve the implementation of the ISO standard 21070:2013 in relation to port reception facilities* has been prepared for EIHA for adoption. The FFL recommendation went through a review and will be presented for adoption and more updates will be given on the status of implementation of various actions, e.g. with regard to microplastics and riverine inputs. Some actions are delayed and pending so discussions at EIHA will focus on those and potential required improvements of the implementation process as such as well.

Action: For TG ML it is relevant to follow the ongoing RSCs processes, thus summary reports and public meeting reports should be shared in order to better understand the ongoing processes.

MEDPOL

Tatjana Hema briefed about the latest developments. During the last COP meeting in February, the proposals from UNEP-MAP on ML were adopted. Regarding the intermediate assessment report 4 candidate indicators have been approved. Need to establish a coordinated initiative with stakeholders that will organize a meeting in September (not only the CPs). The report on marine litter from 2010 has been updated. Work has been done on guidelines for fishing for litter, in line with OSPAR work for adoption by COP. In terms of PoMs, the COP endorsed politically the national action plans and the countries will start to submit formally their package of measures.

In terms of initiatives in the Med: a new project/initiative is about to start (€ 1.4M 3 year period) for the South Mediterranean supported by EC DG ENV (which will include e.g. pilots on *Fishing-for-Litter* and *Adopt-a-beach*) and Plastic Busters. In terms of baselines/targets there is the aspiration of 20% reduction by 2024. MARLISCO education and best practices published in Arabic (MIO supporting). DEFISHGEAR project meeting in Tirana July 2016: capacity building meeting for the participant countries. Additional funding is expected from GPA/UNEP.

Enhanced collaboration and harmonisation with OSPAR and Black Sea (because of shared countries) but also with HELCOM through ongoing informal meeting has been reported. The last meeting took place in France in Sept. 2015, the next is planned in Spain. Action: Documents to be shared.

Black Sea Commission

No delegate from the Black Sea Commission could attend the meeting, though direct contacts with MS delegates had been made. Georg Hanke briefed the group about the EMBLAS II project on Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea, with participants from Ukraine, Russia and Georgia, in which JRC is supporting the components on contaminants and ML. The Black Sea Commission and EMBLAS II will organize a joint workshop on Marine Litter on 13.+14.4.2016 in Istanbul. Action: BSC is invited to share information about the ongoing ML processes. JRC will inform with BSC about the EMBLAS II implementation.

A joint RSCs meeting for coordination purposes has been held between representatives from HELCOM, OSPAR and UNEP/MEDPOL (September 18th, 2015, Paris). Further discussion are planned to harmonize regional plans and monitoring. E meeting has been proposed to be organised by Spain, to follow up on these issues. TG ML invited to inform about this initiative and to ensure the use of positive synergies while avoiding the potential duplication of work.

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MARINE LITTER – THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AGENDA

Brief presentation by Georg Hanke on behalf of Marco Weydert (not able to join due to travel restrictions from Brussels). The presentation included an updated list of relevant ML projects, including COLUMBUS – *Knowledge Transfer for Blue Growth* and the finalized STAGES project of which final reports are available. This information and knowledge will be available through the [MSFD Competence Centre website](#) that is being updated. 3 topics for funding will open in RTD Horizon 2020 later this year. The need to provide new scientific output in an elaborated from into the policy implementation process was emphasized.

JPI OCEANS – LITTER PROJECTS

As John Hanus from JPI Oceans could not attend, Jesus Gago gave a brief update about the 4 projects that started recently, namely BASEMAN - Defining the baselines and standards for microplastics analyses in European waters; EPHEMARE - Ecotoxicological effects of microplastics in marine ecosystems; PLASTOX - Direct and indirect ecotoxicological impacts of microplastics on marine organisms; WEATHER-MIC - How microplastic weathering changes its transport, fate and toxicity in the marine environment. A joint meeting took place in Madrid and project sheets are now available at the [JPI oceans website](#).

NEW KNOWLEDGE - REPORTS FROM LITTER PROJECTS

Various key research projects have been invited to report to the TG ML on their research results and the outcome which can be expected. Hereby a brief summary and the PowerPoints are available at basecamp.

DEFISHGEAR: Thomie Vlachogianni reported on the progress of the project and its activities. Currently focused carrying out marine litter (macro and micro) pilot surveys in all marine compartments (beach, sea surface, seafloor, biota) of the 7 countries of the Adriatic Sea by deploying a harmonized and coordinated monitoring approach. These involved the implementation of protocols for macro litter monitoring and to develop the surveys in 222 locations for sampling and aggregated results for beach litter. There are preliminary results and pilot measures outputs available. It is expected that reports and recommendations will be available by September 2016.

PERSEUS (http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php?locale=1&locale_j=en&sel=1): François Galgani provided a short overview of the activities of the FP7 project PERSEUS, which ended in December 2015. Work was performed on different matrices and different MSFD Litter indicators. The final report of this task (Perseus task 5.2.3a, marine litter) provide information and conclusions on beach litter and seafloor macro litter. Results from the JRC Sealittercam are being published. Publications are also being prepared and expected to provide

insights. The PERSEUS policy brief called for further enhanced collaboration between EU and non-EU countries. Further collaborative activities in this direction are being started.

PlasticBusters: Cristina Fossi provided information on the initiative “Plastic Busters for the Mediterranean Sea”. It will address the impacts of microlitter, the use of sentinel species as bio-indicators, tracers of presence of plastic and chemicals and will investigate the effect on these sentinel species. The first research results are now available. The project has been submitted to UfM. An upcoming meeting– *plastic busters moving forward* – will take place 14.-15. April 2016 in Siena. The project is a partnership with different institutions, who tries to mobilize funding and will last 3 years, but has not yet started, as it depends on appropriated funding to be found.

SICILIAN projects on Microlitter + Ghostnets: Franco Andaloro introduced the current work in Sicily regarding ghost nets in the Sicilian seas. Small scale fisheries dominated, many wrecks represent a large historical heritage (around 1000 wrecks). Ghost nets and fishing gear are mainly plastic and iron/cables. Survey findings available and publications. Many activities are planned in the future including surveys, mitigation actions, Fishing-for-Litter projects and identification of best practices for the management for bio-colonised nets. There is a need to observe the effects on bio-colonised nets in order to prepare decisions on net removal.

RIMMEL: Daniel Gonzalez presented the 2 years JRC exploratory project RIMMEL “Riverine and Marine floating macro litter Monitoring and Modelling of Environmental Loading”. The project includes the set-up of an observation network on rivers close to the sea across Europe and beyond. Within the project a dedicated computer app has been developed which allows harmonized monitoring and easy data collection. TGML members are invited to join that network (contact rimmel@jrc.ec.europa.eu, Daniel Gonzalez, Georg Hanke) and to contribute data. The project will furthermore explore the feasibility of a Riverlittercam set-up, based on technology developed for the JRC Sealittercam.

UNEA: François Galgani explained that that the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) will convene for the second time in 2016 (May 23-27 Nairobi). During this second assembly a policy report will be discussed that will address various ML topics incl. contributions by GESAMP on microplastics. Recommendations are expected as outcome of the meeting.

Surfrider Foundation: Jean-Batiste Dussaussois presented the current activities related to the project on Riverine Input and presented the results of 2 years monitoring according to a protocol and a list of categories according to TG ML master list and additional items. The aim is to engage the public in the surveys, to collect more data. There is potential links to be made with the tools under RIMMEL.

EEA Litterwatch: Constança Belchior presented the EEA Litterwatch project update: *citizens in action to track marine litter*. A workshop took place in February 2016 at EEA to bridge between local, and policy levels: the main outcome results in the planning of an experiment monitoring a Marine Litter Watch Month: one event during which selected communities with the engagement of local authorities, will use the protocol based on MSFD guidelines and in selected beaches (criteria set, but chosen by local communities) that will take place in Autumn 2016 (mid Sept – mid Oct). Currently dealing with the technical needs to be addressed from operational and analytical needs e.g. regional baseline top 10 items (using RSC and/or MLW). There were some concerns expressed on the use of these data for monitoring, in terms of quality control and comparison of data (year and beaches selected). While in some countries like Denmark, the app is used for official monitoring, other countries (e.g. Spain) are not planning to use it as data collection tool for their beach monitoring within OSPAR. However the Litterwatch app does not aim to provide official monitoring but rather to enhance the co-design, citizen science, it is an incentive to joint events, monitoring efforts and could be taken up at national level. Furthermore, Constança Belchior clarified that data is considered only by semi-selected users and these “communities” are managed and coordinated by NGOs, some of which are very experienced in monitoring.

LITTERBASE online litter data portal: Stefanie Werner introduced a new project by the German Alfred-Wegener-Institute AWI scheduled to be online in February 2017 and aiming at setting up a new data base for Marine Litter. Input data will be published information on marine litter abundance and distribution and interaction of marine litter with biota. The output will provide interactive global maps on litter distribution, interactive graphs on ecological implications and global scientific analyses. Action: Link to the project information will be provided on the MSFD Competence Centre website in the D10 section.

Technical Reports: Sources, Harm, Riverine Litter and Source Modelling -Finalization and Publication

The group is working on 4 reports mandated in support to the MSFD D10 implementation. There have been delays due to the additional workload on the drafting groups, e.g. through the ComDec review process. A brief presentation of the status of the reports has been given first then residual work and timelines have been discussed and agreed. .

Sources

There is an advanced draft available now and Joana Veiga presented the current progress of report. Intense discussions during previous meetings and on basecamp have been held and drafting of the report was continued. A final draft will be submitted to the GES meeting on 21.06.2016. Action: Final comments from TG ML to be received until 30.04.2016. Finalization (language edition and formatting will be supported by Emma Priestland) during May for submission to GES in June.

Harm caused by ML on Biota

Brief presentation of the report structure by Stefanie Werner. Intense discussions and drafting has taken place, including a technical meeting in early February in Berlin, the report is close to finalization. Thomas Maes provided a chapter on risk assessment. It was agreed to come back to the issue of risk assessment in the future work of TG ML. It is a comprehensive document which needs a final revision by the group. Action: Final comments from TG ML to be received until 30.04.2016. David Fleet agreed to provide a language check while commenting the doc, Emma Priestland agreed to do a final language check. Finalization (edition and formatting) in May to be ready to submission before GES 21.6.2016.

Riverine Litter monitoring

The report went through a process of revisions by NL (Lex Oosterbaan, Gijsbert Tweehuysen and Marloes Holzhauer) and JRC. While the report outline has been agreed, in collaboration with the JRC RIMMEL project. Action: Finish final drafting rounds, to have the content ready begin of June and a final draft for presentation to GES before 21.6.2016. The report will also be presented at the upcoming "International conference on Plastic in Freshwater environments": <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/plastics-conference-2016>.

Source modelling

A draft with input from different contributors is available but requires further work. It will be short provide an overview about options and current approaches regarding the implementation of modelling work for physical pathways and circulation of litter. Action: Continue the drafting and commenting rounds, to have the content ready begin of June and final draft for presentation before GES 21.6.2016.

MSFD Commission Decision (2010/477/EU) Revision process - Questions to TG ML

DG ENV had provided questions with regard to comments received by EU MS on the proposal for a revised Commission Decision. The proposal for the MSFD ComDec is being discussed in the MSFD Committee in the 2nd phase of the review/revision process and another round a clarifications is required by June 2016.

Action: Draft responses will be posted by the chairs and feedback to be provide to Dg ENV by 15th April! TG ML members are requested to link up with their MS delegates, nationals' representatives' at different levels to inform about the feedback provided by TG ML.

Outstanding issues: process, players, priorities and planning

A number of technical issues have been identified within the TG ML and during the ComDec review, which require future work in 2016/2017. The group discussed the issues, priorities, players and deadlines as follows.

Baselines and thresholds/reference values

The group has concluded during the 2015 meeting in Dublin that joint work on baselines and thresholds/reference values is needed.

Baselines are necessary to establish trends on which MSFD D10 and RAPs are based. Different regions have started to define marine litter baselines, so that discussions across RSCs can build on existing approaches. The availability of data for the development exercises will be crucial. Discussions will touch on different aspects of ML assessments, such as data comparability, representativeness of sampling, spatial and coverage and frequency of data acquisition, data aggregation, etc. The joint work on baselines is urgent. Coordination in the

definitions between RSCs is required as these may potentially be different across regions (sub-regions as suggested by Tatjana Hema).

Across all MSFD Descriptors the concept of thresholds has been introduced into the revised ComDec, currently discussed in the MSFD Committee. The discussion is ongoing and expected to provide an outcome in June 2016. Sandra Moutinho expressed the objection of Portugal against the setting of thresholds for marine litter.

Actions: Activity for TG ML group to start and to identify the main players to be involved in discussing approaches for baseline setting. Discussions on thresholds and reference values will take place in later stage due to the complexity of its definition and as they depend on the outcome from the MSFD ComDec revision process.

Monitoring methodologies + protocols

Following information about independent activities on standardization by ISO and CEN, the need and approaches for standardization have been discussed. Overall it was concluded that the starting research on microlitter (JPI Oceans) let standardization efforts currently appear premature. It was mentioned by Michail Papadoyannakis that the development of a standard for marine biodegradable plastics would be very timely and useful.

The MSFD TG ML report on guidance for monitoring of marine litter has been very well distributed and is widely in use. As some methodologies had been flagged as less mature and meanwhile scientific and harmonization progress has been made, it appears necessary to review the methodologies/protocols for the different matrices in order to integrate recent research findings and developments. This should be done in a collaborative effort within TG ML, eventually involving external institutions. It was agreed that the methodologies for different matrices should be dealt with independently in order to facilitate work organization, i.e. TG ML will not be aiming at a single report as outcome.

Some examples on recent developments have been discussed:

Beach Litter: ETC-EEA compilation beach litter protocol for communities; Floating Litter: upcoming workshop planned by JRC, availability of a dedicated tablet computer app developed within PERSEUS; Ingestion/Entanglement: availability of new research outcome and reports; Micro Litter: availability of numerous studies and different approaches, e.g. NOAA protocol (Joel Baker), Need to review approaches, options and eventually provide recommendations and guidance.

Actions:

Standardization: François Galgani will attend the 1st ISO/TC 61/SC 5/AHG 1 meeting (12-04-2016) "Towards methods for the examination of plastics in environment and biota" coordinated by DIN (Germany) and be the contact point. Stefanie Werner will inform CEN work of the ongoing process in TG ML.

Methodologies: For each protocol an action leader has been identified: Beach litter: Thomie Vlachogianni; Seafloor litter: François Galgani; Sea surface layer macro litter: Georg Hanke; Ingestion: Technical group appointed to revise protocols and to align various ongoing projects : Stefanie Werner, Thomie Vlachogianni , François Galgani, Teresa Romeo and Cristina Fossi; and to check with Jan Franeker and Lex Osterbaan reg. fulmars ; Microplastic: TG ML to liaise and check approach of JPI Oceans; Entanglement: Stefanie Werner will check status of protocol for breeding colonies.

Litter categories masterlist

A joint work on the MSFD item category masterlist had been agreed in 2015 during the Dublin meeting. The TGML masterlist previously published intended to have hierarchical levels/categories of items that correspond to minimum requirements of detail, e.g. across compartments (as these provide different levels of resolution). It includes also a series of new items that have been proposed in previous meetings and need now to be revised. OSPAR will not change their list that is now in use in the near future. Slovenia/EEA proposed that a masterlist for beach litter that could apply to all EU seas should be promoted, including specific items for the different RSCs. There are some corrections needed for the seafloor litter categories under OSPAR, as reported by Thomas Maes.

Actions: Corrections to be applied to the seafloor protocol and to be communicated to the monitoring institutions/authorities. Monika Peterlin agreed to take the lead on the list review of the 3 main matrix and set-up a process including a roadmap, timeline in collaboration with François Galgani (seafloor), Thomie Vlachogianni (beach litter), Georg Hanke (floating litter).

MSFD Monitoring Plans

The national MSFD Monitoring Plans have been submitted and can be checked. EC DG ENV expects to publish a report by summer 2016 with assessment on monitoring programmes from MS on all descriptors.

Data Infrastructure and availability

Data on marine litter are currently hosted by different institutions, authorities and projects. It was proposed to map the where about of litter data on the different matrices and regions. EMODNET is the DG MARE marine data portal of databases and data portals. A dedicated module on ML is now planned to be set-up, France (Ifremer) is involved in this activity. There is need for more information on the approach, which will be

Actions: mapping the location and structure of marine litter data through TG ML. Inquiry on plans for the EMODNET Litter module.

Scales and aggregation

The upcoming workshop on MSFD Article 8 (20-21/04/2016) will address issues of scales and aggregation including how to deal with aggregation across different criteria also for D10. These issues requires to work across all descriptors and there are highly technical issues to deal with. The TG ML should be informed of the outcomes from the workshop so that further input can be provided by TG ML.

Programme of Measures

MS are submitting the PoMs a few are available now including France, NL, Germany, Spain, Portugal, and UK. The group is expected to further provide input, which needs to be discussed after an analysis of the PoMs as it also depends on specific expertise in the group. Once all PoMs are submitted, TGML will consider on how to address this issue and how the success of the measures can be assessed by the monitoring recommended by the TGML. The progress of PoMS is to be reported in 2018.

Risk assessments

Risk assessments to quantify harm related to different litter fractions and items has been discussed. Identify items that pose harm are partly taken into account in the HARM report under preparation. In later stage the group will consider if risk assessments need to be consider as stand-alone activity to follow-up.

Linking work of TG ML and the RSCs with activities of EPA-network

Lilian Busse (German Environmental Agency, UBA) presented the potential setting up of an interest group on plastics in the environment by the European Network of Environmental Protection Agencies. It was discussed what such a group could add to the ongoing work on litter in the environment. The focus of the work of such a group could be e.g. on litter in the freshwater environment and enforcement of measures, as identified by the RAPs ML, thus assisting in their implementation processes.

Wrap-up and conclusions

The final wrap-up of the meeting presented the discussion outcome and the decisions taken on the different reports and outstanding issues. Deadlines and planning have been discussed and agreed, providing a roadmap for finalization of the 4 reports (see page 4 & 5) and discussing the feasibility for the work on the upcoming issues in a future work mandate by MSCG. The summary list of outcomes is included as actions in each discussion point of these minutes also available on a PowerPoint presented by Georg Hanke.

TG ML Organizational issues

The delegates are reminded to check eventual changes in nominations and to follow the formal procedures for approvals. A review of the members will be made in order to confirm and eventually update. Further discussions on Basecamp are welcome and use of the various projects available.

Thomas Maes (UK) raised the question about the process of chairmanship of TG ML and what are the rules for application. Member States had nominated TG ML delegates in a formal process, chairs have been appointed within EC and by the Ministries of France, respectively Germany.

The next meeting of the TG ML is expected to take place in spring 2017 (Poland was mentioned as eventual host country to be contacted). Meanwhile there will be technical meetings organized, related to the work item developments. One dedicated workshop for development of the baselines is planned for the second half of 2016, other technical meetings will depend on the detailed work planning, but can also be co-organized with other events for an efficient use of resources.

At the end of the meeting the group thanked the hosts, Franco Andaloro and colleagues, for the hospitality and the support. The group thanked the chairs for conducting the meeting. The meeting was closed at 18:30.

Participant list:

Michail Papadoyannakis	EC DG ENV
François Galgani	IFREMER, FR, Chair
Georg Hanke	EC JRC, Co-Chair
Stefanie Werner	UBA, DE, Co-Chair
Franco Andaloro	ISPRA Ambiente, Italy
Teresa Romeo	ISPRA Ambiente, Italy
Cristina Fossi	University of Siena, Italy
Per Nilsson	University of Gothenburg, SE
Thomas Maes	CEFAS, UK
Christos Ioakeimidis	EEA – ETC/ICM
Constança Belchior	EEA
Ania Budziak	Project AWARE Foundation
Sandra Moutinho	DGRM, Portugal
Isabel Moura	APA, Portugal
Emma Priestland	Seas-at-Risk
Thomais Vlachogianni	MIO-ECSDE
Lilian Busse	German EA
David M. Fleet	LKN-SH, Germany
Monika Peterlin	EEA – ETC/ICM
Jean-Batiste Dussaussois	Surfrider Foundation Europe
Tatjana Hema	UNEP MAP MEDPOL
Daniel Gonzalez	EC JRC
Jesus Gago	IEO, Spain
Maria Ferreira	Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC), TG-ML Secretariat
Joana Mira Veiga	Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC)