



8.1.2020

Summary Minutes

On-line meeting of the

MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter

14 December 2020 (9:00 – 13:00 CET)

Meeting venue: Webex on-line meeting, meeting restricted to TG ML members, no registration required.

Monday, December 14th

9:00 WELCOME AND SCOPE OF THE MEETING (1)
TG ML chairs

Since a physical meeting was not possible in 2020, this meeting was an additional short update meeting, aiming at organising priority work and providing brief progress updates in view of the particular situation due to Covid-19.

9:05 LATEST EU DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO MARINE LITTER (2)
Michail Papadoyannakis DG ENV

MP provided an overview on recent policy developments in MSFD and related policies. MP reminded the TG ML about the mandate and work items of the recently agreed Workprogramme of the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy.

9:15 MSFD GUIDANCE FOR MONITORING OF MARINE LITTER (3)
Finalising the guidance drafting process

While support in monitoring efforts has been continuously provided by TG ML, it is now necessary to publish the updated guidance document. ARCADIS will be available for support in compiling and editing the report.

Progress and discussion report elements:

- *Outline and Structure Georg Hanke*

After presentation and discussion of the draft report outline it was concluded that the overarching part of the guidance should be limited. It was suggested that the guidance should follow closely the nomenclature of MSFD. The guidance should be operational, providing clear protocols for direct application in MS monitoring activities and MSFD reporting.

- *Beach/Coastline Francesca Ronchi*

Lead authors have provided a chapter outline and will soon share the draft text. It was suggested to involve the identified Beach core group (June TG ML online meeting

minutes). Experiences from the ongoing beach litter data collection exercise should be considered. Furthermore, in collaboration with EEA, the role of MLW in the MSFD monitoring should be clarified and presented.

- *Surface Water* Georg Hanke

A draft background report on the monitoring of Floating Marine Macro Litter FMML is available (Morgana Vighi). The report integrated outcomes from 2 workshops and scientific work from different projects, such as the MEDSEALITTER project. The draft report will be posted on wiki. The methods recommended to MSFD monitoring will then be featured in the guidance chapter.

- *Seabed* Francois Galgani

An advanced draft will be available after the alignment of the sea floor list of categories with the new TGML joint list categories. There might also be alignment needs with other chapters.

- *Microlitter* Georg Hanke

TG ML Microlitter Position paper draft is to be finalised, the guidance chapter will then be a spin-off by selecting the protocols, which are likely available. The development of methodologies is still ongoing but the guidance must reflect the current state of knowledge. Several fora, incl. e.g. OSPAR have recommended a joint technical workshop that could be organised through TG ML in 2021.

- *Impacts* Stefanie Werner

Based on the outcomes of a TG ML workshop on harm caused by marine litter involving relevant external experts and research projects the draft for the impact chapter will soon be provided. It was pointed out that INDICIT projects, which have been involved in the workshop, have further developed protocols and submitted to TG ML for comments. Protocols for plastic ingestion by turtles, microplastic ingestion by fish and for entanglement will be part of the impact chapter of the revised guidance.

Work process + way forward

Deadlines:

It is expected that core groups provide a contribution by end of January 2021. During February a review round may take place, with the intention to finalise the report in March. A competition for a cover image was launched, a dedicated thread will be opened on wiki, deadline 31.1.2021.

TG ML chairs highlighted that while there are substantial funds available for research efforts, the availability of funds for the implementation support is very limited.

10:45

15 MIN BREAK

11:00

BASELINES + THRESHOLDS (4)

State of work, next steps

- *Beach/Coastline* Georg Hanke

The current collection of EU Beach Litter data 2017-2020 is being completed. MS are kindly asked to urgently finalise their data input. The dataset for MSFD work will then be extracted by EMODnet for analysis and presentation.

- *Surface Water* Georg Hanke

The collection of surface floating macro litter data has not started yet. Currently available data is likely to consist of different batches of project related data. The use of the JRC FML app may provide the path towards harmonised monitoring and comparable dataset.

- *Seabed* *Francois Galgani*

International seafloor trawling surveys can provide seafloor litter data. FG informed that the Mediterranean litter trawling data collection is currently not organised and that a way forward may be the ingestion of such data directly by EMODnet. A possible timeline as proposed for the definition of baseline and thresholds. GH informed about the acceptance of a scientific article as outcome from the JRC-AWI workshop on seafloor litter. This article will highlight further development needs.

- *Microlitter* *Georg Hanke*

Within the TG ML a call for providing information about the availability of microlitter data in EU MS had been launched. Information collection is almost complete. The missing MS are kindly requested to provide their info asap. Overall there is a large number of data in the different environmental compartments available. It is suggested to start as a pilot phase to collect data on floating marine microlitter. EMODnet will facilitate the process by providing the data ingestion tools and advise on the data submission pathways (e.g. through NODCs), possibly setting up a training session.

The German AWI is providing information about microlitter data from research publications through the AWI Litterbase. An analysis of ca. 200 publications has been made, georeferenced data and metadata are being extracted.

In the context of the G20 assembly Japan is leading an activity for the collection of data on floating marine microlitter. Participating MS supported in the meeting the joint approach for collecting data at EU scale through EMODnet and providing the data then through EMODnet to the global scale.

- *Impacts* *Stefanie Werner*

12:00

A draft discussion document on the setting of threshold values TV for MSFD litter Impact Criteria is being finalized and will be put for further comments to TG ML. It was mentioned that the setting of TVs requires a sustainable monitoring system and that data should be collected in order to provide baselines. The documents gives an outlook which first impact TVs are available/could be developed (ingestion in fulmars, ingestion in turtles, entanglement in sea birds breeding colonies).

12:15

OTHER TOPICS FOR 2021 (5)

Measures, Contributing to MSFD Art. 8 guidance, etc.

- Development of Intermediate Targets for Beach Litter
- Contribution to MSFD Art.8 Guidance
- Linking Monitoring and Measures

TG ML chairs and all

Upcoming topics, their content, relevance and timing will be discussed in 2021.

12:30

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE (6)

UNEA, UNEP, G7/G20, Arctic

UNEP Report

UNEA

Collaboration with AMAP

G7/G20 Initiatives

All

FG informed about the Starfish Mission, UNEP/UNEA and G7/G20 activities. GH added information on the ongoing activities in the Arctic, as the development of the Arctic Regional Action Plan against Marine Litter and the need to collaborate with AMAP.

12:45

TG ML HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES (7)

Topics

TG ML Membership updates (procedure + clean-up)

Wiki, structure and tiles

Georg Hanke JRC

The group was asked to provide updates on the TG ML Memberships. The current list will

be posted on TG ML wiki.

JRC informed that suggestions for minor changes in the TG ML wiki structure can be provided.

WRAP-UP AND CLOSURE (8)

Change in TG ML chair-group composition

Stefanie Werner UBA, has left the TG Litter chair group. The two co-chairs, Francois Galgani and Georg Hanke thanked Stefanie very much for the years of good collaboration and the group thanked for her great job as TG Litter co-chair!

TG ML chairs

13:00

END

The chairs provided closing remarks and wished all participants the best for Christmas and a good start into the New Year. The meeting was closed at 13:15.

Meeting Participants:

<i>Ahmet Kideys</i>	<i>Inga Lips</i>	<i>Michail Papadoyannakis</i>
<i>Anna Rindorf</i>	<i>Isabel Moura</i>	<i>Mustafa Aydin</i>
<i>Åsa Andersson</i>	<i>Jakob Strand</i>	<i>Pero Tutman</i>
<i>Barbara Pia Oberc</i>	<i>Jelena Knezevic</i>	<i>Pilar Zorzo</i>
<i>Camille Lacroix</i>	<i>Jesus Gago</i>	<i>Samy Djavidnia</i>
<i>Cecilia Silvestri</i>	<i>Joana Raimundo</i>	<i>Sandra Moutinho</i>
<i>Christina Zeri</i>	<i>Johanna Eriksson</i>	<i>Sanna Suikkanen</i>
<i>Christos Ioakeimidis</i>	<i>Karien de Cauwer</i>	<i>Stefanie Werner</i>
<i>Clara Lopes</i>	<i>Konstantinos Antoniadis</i>	<i>Tamara Zalewska</i>
<i>Daniel González Fernández</i>	<i>Lone Soederberg</i>	<i>Tatjana Hema</i>
<i>David Fleet</i>	<i>Louise Feld</i>	<i>Thomais Vlachogianni</i>
<i>Eva Blidberg</i>	<i>Marco Matiddi</i>	<i>Tomaso Fortibuoni</i>
<i>Francesca Ronchi</i>	<i>Maria Eugenia Molina Jack</i>	<i>Uros Robic</i>
<i>Francois Galgani</i>	<i>María Plaza_Spain</i>	<i>Willem van Loon</i>
<i>Georg Hanke</i>	<i>Marta Ruiz</i>	<i>Zoi Konstantinou</i>
<i>Helen Kaberi</i>	<i>Matteo Vinci</i>	