

On-line Meeting of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter 11th (13:30-18:00)– 12th (9:30-13:15) June 2020, On-line Meeting

Final Minutes

The minutes provide a brief overview of the key items and list of actions discussed during the on-line TG ML meeting (11-12th June 2020).

DAY 1 – 11th of June

Item 11-01 Welcome and approval of the agenda

- All MS Delegates and the EC policy officer of TG ML, Michail Papadoyannakis (DG Environment, Marine Environment and Water Industry Unit) were welcomed by the TG ML (co-)chairs, Georg Hanke (JRC), Francois Galgani (IFREMER) and Stefanie Werner (UBA)
- Circa 60 participants attended the on-line TG ML meeting (see Annex)

Item 11-02 Latest EU Developments connected to Marine Litter

- Michail Papadoyannakis (DG ENV) informed TG ML on the relevance of the Green Deal for marine litter, next to the newly adopted SUP/DG Directive (5 June 2019), the EU Plastics Strategy (focus more on microplastics)
- He reminded the MS on the obligations related to plastic gear used in fishing and aquaculture, standard for circular design of fishing gear, etc.
- An overview was further given on the status of MSFD Actions I, II and III and the role TG ML regarding MSFD/EU actions: 1) essential contribution for baselines, monitoring protocols and thresholds; 2) coordination of measures and assessing/increasing their effectiveness; 3) interregional coordination and coherence; 4) consolidating MSFD role and needs for microplastics
- MS were encouraged to take up and use the jointly produced deliverables in their MSFD reporting (e.g. forthcoming monitoring programmes) and to support preparation/implementation and assessing effectiveness of other EU legislation (awareness raising/SUP/(poss.) pellets/microplastics)
- Maris Stulgis (DG MARE) complemented the presentation with a brief statement on the ongoing work specifically in relation to fishing gear; work is on-going on circular design for FG: standards will be provided by end of this year

Item 11-03 International activities: G20/G7, Arctic, UNEP, FAO, IMO, etc.

- Francois Galgani (IFREMER) presented an overview of the international activities ongoing under EU Horizon Europe/Mission ‘Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters’, UN/IOC, UNEP, UN, G7, G20, GEO Blue planet

Item 11-04 Regional Seas Conventions: short update on current work on monitoring/assessments

- A short update on the current and upcoming work on monitoring/assessment was given by Philip Stamp (OSPAR), Marta Ruiz (HELCOM secretariat), Jelena Knezevic (UNEP/MAP), Irina Makarenko (Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat)

OSPAR/NE Atlantic

- Update assessment on beach litter and fulmars; results will be integrated in the OSPAR strategy 2020

- Ongoing focus on OSPAR Quality Status Report to be published in 2023. Thematic assessments to be prepared by spring 2022 (high level reports, max. 30 p) including data, longer term trends, drivers, effectiveness assessments of measures. A ML thematic assessment will be prepared including assessments on harm and microplastics and integrating the updated info on beach litter assessment.
- Spring 2021: next OSPAR meeting

HELCOM /Baltic Sea

- HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter approved
- Discussion on implementation of the work plan on indicators initiated with beach litter and microlitter indicators:
 - Agreed scenario towards a harmonized Baltic Sea wide monitoring and assessment of beach
 - Revision of information on national monitoring programs as contained in the HELCOM monitoring sub-programme of beach litter
 - Agreed to use existing database to host HELCOM beach litter monitoring data: consideration which database would best fit HELCOM purposes is ongoing
 - Options for the assessment of the indicator within HOLAS III: HELCOM EN-Marine Litter is to consider the threshold value for this indicator once established at EU level
 - Issues under consideration on microlitter indicator (agreed as candidate indicator): close cooperation between EN-Marine Litter and OSPAR ICG encouraged
- Ongoing revision of the HELCOM monitoring manual, aiming to finalize it in time for national reporting for Art. 11 under EU MSFD

Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Sea

- Key milestones related to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean (Ecological Objective 10: Marine Litter) presented as well as the IMAP Guidance Factsheets for the common indicators (CI22/CI23) and candidate indicator (CI24)
- Overview of work done 2018-2019 on pollution and marine litter including update thematic assessment (2019), update of assessment criteria for contaminants, update of baseline and threshold values for beach and seafloor litter, progress towards monitoring protocols (incl. CI24, floating microplastics), support GES-integrated assessments through DPSIR-based approach, new national IMAP based monitoring programmes for 10 contracting parties, new IMAP based monitoring data flows, field surveys, training workshops, pilot projects.
- Actions taken to improve the quality of monitoring data including data dictionaries/standards, operational IMAP Pilot info system, new criteria/procedures in training courses
- Continued work on updating baseline values and proposal for threshold values for EO10 Marine Litter (ongoing – initiated in 2019) on beach macro-litter, seafloor macro-litter; more information can be shared by end 2020/beginning 2021; work is done considering work at EU level
- Monitoring protocols for floating microplastics and beach microplastics – priority given to marine turtles as most representative species in the Mediterranean
- Regional operational strategy for monitoring IMAP candidate indicator 24 (ingestion/entanglement) – prepared in the framework of the ML MED project
- Cross-cutting issues and common challenges to align UNE/MAP and EU New GES decision
- 3 EU-funded Projects highlighted to support ML monitoring (2020-2021)
 - IMAP-MPA (CI23 floating micro/macro-litter, and seafloor microplastics)
 - ECAP MED III (CI 22 beach micro litter)
 - ML MED II (CI24 + New IMAP indicators on riverine marine litter, microplastics from WWTP)

Bucharest Convention/ Black Sea

- Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter was adopted (October 2018)
- Draft Guidelines on Marine Litter in the Black Sea (based on JRC experience) were finalized, but not yet adopted by the Black Sea Commission. Will be further considered by BSC in October 2020
- Current status of BSC reporting: no obligatory reporting on ML at the moment, is planned after adoption of ML Guidelines as part of monitoring program (BSIMAP 2017-2022)
- Conclusions and recommendations of Regional Verification workshop to support the establishment of the Black Sea Marine Litter Monitoring Programme and streamline the implementation of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Black Sea (12-13th December, 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey) were presented. Important to mention here is that the ML reporting templates provided by UNEP/MAP were presented to BSC for further consideration and possible adoption, and that 3 common indicators for monitoring marine litter in the Black Sea were proposed
- Agreement that PMA & LBS monitoring group will also deal with ML
- Bilateral coordination meetings between BSC and UNEP/MAP, supported also through an EU-funded project, were essential for adoption of the regional action plan and elaboration of guidelines and are ongoing
- Further need to coordinate the mechanism of implementation of ML RAP for the Black Sea, to further harmonization of the approaches within the 4 EU RSCs on marine litter, and to encourage appropriate involvement of various authorities and stakeholders

Item 11-05/12 Monitoring guidance review

General roadmap for all chapters until finalization of guidance

- Identification (confirmation) of lead and core group
- First draft and comment round organised per topic (chapter) within core group
- Second draft for review TG ML group uploaded by leads by 5th October 2020 (on wiki)
- Final comment round by TG ML group by 23rd October 2020
- Final draft to be discussed at next TG ML meeting (27-29/10/2020)
- Editing/formatting per topic (chapter) by lead by 13th November 2020
- Finalisation of monitoring guidance update by 30th November 2020 supported by ARCADIS (Annemie Volckaert)

Work progress and planning

- Beach litter Monitoring

LEAD: Francesca Ronchi, Thomie Vlachogianni, Tomaso Fortibuoni

Core group: David Fleet, Willem van Loon, Mustafa Aydin, Ahmet Kidey, Jakob Strand, Christina Zeri, Helen Kaberi, Eva Blidberg, Isabel Moura, Janis Ulme, Georg Hanke

- Status and next steps:

- Informal compilation on topics to be considered for beach litter monitoring guidance review, deriving from Beach Litter Top Items, Baselines + Thresholds work, (posted 29.5.2020 by Georg Hanke on wiki)
- Discussion and confirmation of topics, (on-line) meeting of core group
- Mustafa Aydin (EEA) highlighted the EEA Marine Litter Watch approach on marine litter. Future efforts will go to improve the quality of the metadata, the harmonization with EMODnet database, the RSCs, etc.
- Georg Hanke raised that further discussions how to make best use of the EEA data collected are upcoming and that the use of an app, in particular MLW for EU ML data gathering would facilitate monitoring and data ingestion.

- Floating litter Monitoring

- LEAD: Georg Hanke
- Core group: Morgana Vighi, Christina Zeri, Antonella Arcangeli
- Status and next steps:
 - Background document on floating marine litter available (to be shared after review)
 - First draft of guidance chapter available for discussion within core group (online meeting, to be planned)

- Seafloor litter Monitoring
 - LEAD: Francois Galgani
 - Core group: 14 contributors from Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Denmark, JRC, the Netherlands and Italy (all co-authors)
 - Status and next steps:
 - Advanced draft available from core group (only the coding of sea floor item list in the annex, by lead + 2 references under press are missing)
 - New structure: building on 2013 report, more detailed and some new elements relating to technical requirements, data recording and management (EMODnet), new criteria 10DC4 (especially also useful on rocky seafloor)
 - Input from 2028 JRC+AWI workshop on seafloor litter

- Entanglement + Ingestion Monitoring
 - LEAD: Stefanie Werner
 - Core group:
 - Seabirds (ingestion): Jan van Franeker (lead) & Susanne Kühn (Northern fulmars), Yasmina Rodriguez & Christopher Kim Pham (Cory's Sheawater)
 - Sea turtles (ingestion): Marco Mattidi (lead); Gaëlle Darmon
 - Seabirds (entanglement): Nils Guse (lead); Stefan Weiel, Gaëlle Darmon, Bernard Cadiou
 - Fish (ingestion): Marco Mattidi (lead); Salud Deudero, Cristina Fossi, Ulrike Kammann, Susanne Kühn, Pierpaolo Consoli
 - Mussels (ingestion): Marcus Schulz (lead); Olivia G rigny, Salud Deudero, Jakob Strand, Cristina Fossi
 - Plastics in marine mammals (ingestion): Cristina Fossi (lead); Stefanie Werner
 - Sea turtles (entanglement): Fran oise Claro (lead); Ga elle Darmon, Salud Deudero, Cristina Fossi
 - Seals (entanglement – haul-out sites): Fran oise Claro (lead); Jan van Franeker, Susanne K uhn, Ga elle Darmon, Stefanie Werner
 - Seals (entanglement – rescue stations): Michail Bakker (lead); Fran oise Claro, Jan van Franeker, Suzanne K uhn, Gaele Darmon
 - Deep sea benthic organisms (entanglement): Michela Angiolillo (lead); Olivia G rigny, Pierpaolo Consoli, Francois Galgani
 - Status and next steps:
 - New structure: based on Hamburg workshop decision made to revise existing protocols (ingestion seabirds/sea turtles/fish + entanglement bird colonies) and to provide new protocols (ingestion (mussels / marine mammals) + entanglement (seals / turtles/ deep sea benthic organisms))
 - Draft monitoring protocols for entanglement developed within INDICIT II project have been distributed prior to the meeting
 - First draft where existing (revised) and new protocols are combined provided to contributors (as mentioned above) plus members of TG-ML (please let Stefanie Werner know if you want to be involved in the first draft)
 - Second draft to be further developed by expert group

- Micro-litter Monitoring
 - LEAD: Georg Hanke
 - Core group: Elke Fischer, Jakob Strand, Gunnar Gerds, Marco Matiddi, Willem van Loon, Frédérique Mongodin, Joana Raimundo, JPI Ocean project leads (tbc)
 - Status and next steps:
 - MSFD Micro-litter Position Paper on-hold, needs identified for clarifications under MSFD (incl. strategy, matrix selection, method selection, size range selection, quality assurance/control, dose-harm relationships), to be finalised and used as platform to agree on approaches
 - Continued collaboration with JPI-Oceans on micro-litter (already contributing to position paper, several projects launched on micro-litter May 2020)
 - Linking with activities on micro-litter ingestion (INDICIT II)
 - Dedicated TG ML micro-litter workshop postponed several times, but intention to organise second half 2020 to agree on common ground, strategy, and way forward with possibility for involvement of further members of TG-ML
 - Analysis to be provided on status of MS on micro-litter and comparability of used approaches
 - In parallel compilation of data (water + sediment) and review of available data (with EMODnet)
 - Second draft to be developed based on position paper and outcomes from workshop/analysis

- Joint List of litter categories
 - LEAD: David Fleet
 - Core group: Thomie Vlachogianni, Francesca Ronchi, Tomaso Fortibuoni, Georg Hanke
 - Status and next steps:
 - The Joint List of Litter Categories was agreed and formally adopted at MSCG (November 2019) and about to be published in the web
 - A proposal for coding system has been developed and is being finalised
 - Manual is almost completed by core group (only integrating the feedback on the coding system)
 - Summary chapter in the guidance document
 - Photo guide to be developed (at JRC) once coding system is agreed
 - The process for adding/deleting litter items is to be developed

- Overarching topics (e.g. quality assurance + quality control) and drafting the guidance report
 - LEAD: TG ML chairs
 - Core group: TG ML chairs, ARCADIS
 - Status and next steps:
 - Confirmation of guidance outline and TOC
 - Initial discussions during TG ML online meeting on relevant QA/QC aspects to consider
 - Draft to be developed

Feedback from/to TG ML

- Riverine monitoring will not be considered in the monitoring guidance review
- The joint list of litter categories only refers to macro-litter (pellets not included), and is compatible with the lists used for seafloor e.g. MEDITS/IBTS or by RSCs – it is mainly an issue of linking the codes of these lists with the joint list of litter categories. Georg Hanke stated that not all items are relevant for all compartments, but at least harmonization is needed between the

compartments for the relevant litter items. Potential bottlenecks related to comparing and aggregating of data can be discussed on a bilateral level with David Fleet (e.g. Denmark).

- Harmonization is needed on the use of size classes for micro-litter for both the harm and the micro-litter work.
- The monitoring guidance review will be finalized by December 2020, but MS can already make use of draft documents shared during the on-going monitoring revision process.
- Although the guidance document is not legally binding, it is of high importance to allow comparability of monitoring data and EU MS take an exemplary role in using the guidance document, the templates, etc. to drive the acceptance process within the RSCs.
- TG ML agreed that the RSCs need to be involved in the revision of the guidance document as close collaboration with RSCs is important to ensure compatibility and to avoid double work.
- Feedback was asked to the RSCs on the use of the joint litter category list. HELCOM and BSC confirmed the importance of the list, and their willingness for support. OSPAR and MEDPOL to be further confirmed.
- Feedback was asked to the MS on QA/QC for the monitoring guidance review relating to 1) acquisition of data and 2) management of data. Some suggestions given during TG ML include QA/QC rules identified in OSPAR revision process, maximum use of high-quality data based on the latest experience of EMODnet data management project, good quality of metadata incl. a.o information on monitoring system, optimal use of the joint list of litter categories, EU workshops with comparative monitoring exercises in the field, good training, concept of parallel observations, compatibility of monitoring equipment (e.g. trawl nets), , making use of projects as a step-wise approach (basis for national decisions on best approach), use of agreed reporting formats detailing the essential set of (meta)data (risk on potential delay due to approval process to consider; possibility to publish reporting format as subreport/annex afterwards as a compromise).

DAY 2 – 12th of June

Item 12-13 MSFD D10 Monitoring programs reporting

- Irene Del Barrio (EEA) informed the TG ML group on the 2020 reporting on monitoring programmes (Art. 11) (official reporting 15 July – 20 October 2020)
 - Change: 2 XML files by country (one for monitoring strategies and another one for monitoring programmes; all subregions included)
 - User-friendly reporting tools developed including conversion tools (Access to XML to PDF/RTF) to allow MS to use them for public consultation and make the revision process more efficient; a merging tool to allow an easy compilation of several input documents (e.g. from responsible institutes) by the competent authority.
 - Prefilling resources: prefilled monitoring programmes with info from 2014 as basis for the update in the second cycle
 - Reporting resources web: <https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/msfd/MSFD%20ART11>
- Final guidance of the 2020 reporting on monitoring programmes expected by mid-June (EEA)

Feedback from/to TG ML

- Further information has been provided by EEA on the data assessment process: data assessed by EC (DG ENV) on completeness, further analysis done by JRC; no direct access/links to EMODnet data (MS should inform EEA on the URL where their monitoring data will be made available)
- The version of the monitoring reporting guidance 2020 sent to MSCG and the current version are very similar (provided in same URL link); four small changes made (e.g. length of fields, multiple competent authorities option)

Item 12-14 Beach Litter – Thresholds, data collection, litter software and targets

- Georg Hanke (JRC) gave a brief overview of the work done on beach litter regarding the documents published, the last changes made regarding the Beach litter threshold values, and the role TG ML has towards beach litter targets.

Beach baseline data

- Willem van Loon presented the software tool LitterR, developed for the data analysis of beach litter for OSPAR and MSFD assessment. The new litterR software (version 8) is now available at the R CRAN website via the link: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/litterR/index.html>
- MS have been invited to send beach monitoring data (2017-2018, if possible 2019) to start the beach data analysis 2017+ (missing countries are urged to send their data soon)
- OSPAR countries have flagged that their data will be transmitted through OSPAR (undergoing a quality check) and be available before end of July 2020
- MS are informed that only data flagged as official reporting data can be considered for TG ML in the 2017+ data collection
- Discussions on the best way to use EEA Marine Litterwatch data for MSFD are ongoing. discussions between EEA, DG ENV; DG MARE + DG JRC are planned, there is interest to make data from MLW available to MS/TG ML and to enable the use of MLW for MSFD monitoring and in related RSCs
- Issue on MS beach litter data considered for Denmark: contact to be taken between Denmark (Jakob Strand) and EMODnet

Beach litter thresholds

- The technical discussions in the TG ML are concluded and the proposal has been submitted to MSCG. The rationale for the pragmatic use of 20 items/100 m (15th percentile value at EU level) considering uncertainties in the baselines dataset for the 10th percentile value (13 items/100 m) and the related assessment value for beach litter thresholds has been explained

- Beach litter threshold report will be discussed at next MSCG (but no adoption request to MSCG). Adoption will go through a written process, afterwards.
- Denmark flagged that they preferred to have the 20 items/100 m value directly cited as pragmatic approach rather than citing the 15th percentile.
- Portugal raised some principal objections regarding the rational and feasibility of implementing the threshold.

Item 12-16 Seafloor Litter – Baselines & Thresholds

- Francois Galgani (IFREMER) stated that the discussions on baselines and threshold values for seafloor litter just started, but the process followed for beach litter may serve as a basis
- Initial members contributors identified to discuss the strategy and calculation schemes (Frederique Mongodin – Sea@Risk, Tomaso Fortibuoni, Christos Ioakimidis, Jelena Knezevic, Michela Angiolillo, IPMA/PT). Possibly further expanded with experts from northern areas.
- Agreement on timeline process needed, to be discussed in core group (start expected still in 2020, running 2021-22).

Seafloor baseline data

- The applicability of the litteR software (as used for beach litter) will be tested for Dutch seafloor data in autumn 2020 (first test) and spring 2021 (extensive study) (Willem van Loon). These results will be made available.

Seafloor litter thresholds

- Agreement on timeline proces needed, to be discussed in core group (start expected still in 2020, running 2021-22).

Item 12-17 Entanglement/Ingestion – Baselines & Thresholds

- Stefanie Werner (UBA) gave an overview of the work done on TVs for ML impact criteria

Entanglement/Ingestion thresholds

- First draft TV for marine litter impact criteria to be shared with TG ML after TG ML online meeting (Stefanie Werner)
- Proposals for TV to be developed in core groups – timing tbd
 - Northern Fulmar – Jan Franeker & team (finalized and available)
 - Loggerhead Turtle – INDICIT team and Marcus Schulz
 - Seabirds in breeding colonies – Nils Guse & team
- Second draft including three proposals to be shared with TG ML – timing tbd (Stefanie Werner)
- Portugal will provide contact details and information on the thresholds reported in their POMs for ingestion (indicator species: Cory’s shearwater)
- TG ML discussed the adoption process for litter thresholds. They might not need an adoption through MSCG.
- Denmark suggested that for marine litter threshold criteria coordination and information sharing will be done at EU level, but voting will not be done at EU level (GES, MSCG). To be discussed in other fora.

Item 12-18 Micro-litter Baselines

- Georg Hanke (JRC) gave a brief introduction on the micro-litter baselines, starting with a reference to the Green Deal and the increased public and policy attention on microplastics/micro-litter
- It is proposed to start collecting data for micro-litter in order to prepare the establishing of baselines to support the implementation of MSFD D10C2.
- TG ML agreed to start that process
- First preparatory steps include the collection of (sample) data, analysis of data structure and content types

- Data template available through EMODnet (following chemical contaminants approach)
- Structured proces will be launched by TG ML for collection of data on water & sediment + preparation of data ingestion through EMODnet chemistry module

Item 12-19 Marine Litter Data Management – EMODNET

- Matteo Vinci (OGS, EMODnet) presented the progress on marine litter data collection and management (www.emodnet.eu)
- EMODnet (DG MARE) is well established and the Chemistry Portal (OGS, Trieste, Italy) has been instrumental in achieving litter data compilation, analysis and database set-up
- EMODnet is working on beach, surface, seafloor and micro-litter data
- A template for floating micro-litter will be shared
- Information on validation process (QA/QR) used by EMODnet will be shared, as well as some more details on the further treatment of data done by EMODnet

Feedback from/to TG ML

- EMODnet confirms the possibility to filter at different levels (country, RSCs) for data analysis
- EMODNET explains that for seafloor litter they are currently directly downloading data from DATRAS, but that further explanations may be asked to increase the quality

Item 12-20 Research projects on marine litter – An update

- Ivan Conesa Alcolea (DG Research) gave a brief update of the research agenda on ML
- Georg Hanke (JRC) presented the current TG ML research project list on ML, including projects from DG RTD (HORIZON), Life, JPI Oceans, INTERREG and national funding.
- Revision by TG ML of updated research project list on ML is ongoing (currently 101 relevant projects identified)
- Current project list will be provided on Wiki with the invitation to TG ML to flag new projects and to complement the existing information through wiki

Item 12-21 Transboundary modelling of marine litter

- Diego Macias (JRC) gave a recap from last year presentation on the JRC marine modelling framework MMF and presented the most recent updates of the tool; JRC is developing modelling tools for litter transport with currents for the different EU marine basins
- The first outcomes from models on the Mediterranean Sea (most advanced) and the Black Sea have been published
- Dedicated workshops will be organised bringing modelling experts together (MEME and national-wise) and ensuring the uptake of available knowledge

Feedback from/to TG ML

- The maturity of the modelling frameworks for use of ML assessments depends on the aim; mature enough for general floating dispersion patterns of marine litter, to support transboundary modelling for beach litter (but not for detailed assessments)
- The model can be used for both micro and macro litter, and input from different sources (e.g. shipping, fisheries) can be dealt with

Item 12-22 Reporting of MSFD programs of measures

- Jacques Delsalle (DG ENV) gave a short recapitulation on results first POM assessments (Art. 16)
- DG ENV recommended that MS should address micro-litter better, prevent/identify and tackle pollution hot spots, identify targeted measures in view of upcoming potential actions, link monitoring with potential measures (example of pellets given)
- By 2022, MS need to provide an update of POM and exception paying attention to the effectiveness of measures regarding impact of marine litter, justification of exceptions, interregional cooperation

Item 12-23 Measures against Marine Litter – Role of TG ML

- Stefanie Werner (UBA) gave an overview of the action fields at different levels (EU, regional, national, local) and invited the RSCs to give an update on their work regarding ML measures
 - Tatjana Hema (UNEP/MAP) gave an overview of the achievements in the Mediterranean on the RAP ML including ban on single-use plastic bags, adopt a beach initiatives, EPR, etc. Common regional guidelines and standards on key measures have recently been adopted. A regional platform on ML management is active. Tatjana also thanked the EC on their contribution for EU ML projects and points to some remaining Mediterranean challenges. Next steps include further implementation of RAP & NAPs, updating the marine litter regional plan, expanding/concluding pilot projects implementation and informed us on aims of the up-coming EU-funded ML MED II project.
 - Philip Stamp (OSPAR) stated that the RAP will be reviewed in 2021 (TOR review been adopted). Most of the measures have been or will be completed (2020-2021). Outputs of the different activities/initiatives can be found on the webpage of OSPAR. Revision RAP will focus first on the effectiveness of measures (evidence-based), in a second phase focus on development of new measures by 2022. CleanAtlantic and Oceanwise projects contribute considerably to the implementation of the RAP.
 - Marta Ruiz (HELCOM) informed that information on the implementation of the RAP is regularly updated in the HELCOM website. She highlighted the advances on specific actions: update HELCOM RC on storm water management, actions to address ALDFG, prioritized actions to reduce releases of EPS and XPS, draft policy message on disposal of end-of life boats, ... Two workshops planned: A workshop on implementation RAP ML (October 2020, Finland), and HELCOM BSAP UP workshop on hazardous substances and litter (24-25 August 2020, online).
 - Irina Makarenko (BSC) reminded that the RAP ML was adopted 2018 and should now be implemented (supported through workshops) incl. developing national and regional action plans by contracting parties, setting up regional data base on ML, establishment ML baseline values.
- An online meeting will be set up (by Stefanie Werner) with the RSCs and the EC to discuss the potential role of TG ML as a platform to discuss/evaluate measures against ML. Some initial ideas were raised by Stefanie in her presentation (e.g. orchestrated EU approach to make knowledge available, comprehensive overview on working results per theme on different levels, database on measures, providing concrete outcomes, evidence-based approach)
- A dedicated TG ML Wiki section will be prepared for on-line discussions
- The question was raised on who would host a database on measures (Jakob Strand)

Item 12-24 Linking monitoring and measures

- Georg Hanke (JRC) confirmed that linking the work on monitoring, baselines and thresholds, etc. with the requirements for measures will be further tackled in TG ML. Examples are the link between the TG ML Top Beach Litter Items, the Beach Baselines and the Directive on the Reduction of the impact by certain plastic products 2019/904/EU. Others may be e.g. plastic pre-production pellets.

Item 12-25 TG ML organisational issues

- MS are kindly reminded to flag changes in TG ML membership via a mail to TG ML chairs and DG ENV (Michail Papadoyannakis) (currently 115 members)
- New 2-factor authorisation for TG ML wiki access has been implemented, guidance is available (please note that the phone number needs to be deposited in the EU Login account profile), if there are any problems, please contact JRC
- Needs for setting up (technical) online meetings to discuss TG ML items may be addressed to JRC

- Physical TG ML meeting tentatively planned in Croatia (Split, 27-29/10/2020) – Evaluation of feasibility (related to potential travel restrictions due to COVID19) after summer, as an alternative an on-line meeting will be organised
- Presentations made during the online meeting are available on the TG ML wiki platform (Split page) ([link presentations on-line TGML](#))

Item 12-26 Wrap up and next steps

- Brief minutes will be produced by beginning July, reviewed by the EC and the TG ML chairs, posted on wiki and open for revision by the TG ML experts until first week August 2020.

Item 12-27 End of TG ML on-line meeting

- The TG ML chairs thanked all participants, for their presence and contributions and closed the meeting at 13.15h on 12th June.

Annex 1 – Attendance List

Delegate	Country/Organisation	
Chair group and EU		
Galgani	Francois	France
Werner	Stefanie	Germany
Hanke	Georg	EC JRC
Macias	Diego	EC JRC
Papadoyannakis	Michail	DG ENV
Delsalle	Jacques	DG ENV
Stulgis	Maris	DG MARE
Petrikovicova	Alena	DG MARE
Conesa Alcolea	Ivan	DG RESEARCH
Aydin	Mustafa	EEA
Djavidnia	Samy	EMSA
EU MS		
De Cauwer	Karien	Belgium
Tutman	Pero	Croatia
Antoniadis	Konstantinos	Cyprus
Soederberg	Lone	Denmark
Strand	Jakob	Denmark
Feld	Louise	Denmark
Kovtun-Kante	Anastasiia	Estonia
Turov	Polina	Estonia
Suikkanen	Sanna	Finland
Jénot	Bénédicte	France
Fischer	Elke	Germany
Fleet	David	Germany
Gerdts	Gunnar	Germany
Kaberi	Helen	Greece
Zeri	Christina	Greece
O'Connor	Conall	Ireland
Matiddi	Marco	Italy
Fortibuoni	Tomaso	Italy
Ronchi	Francesca	Italy
Silvestri	Cecilia	Italy
Micallef	Tamara	Malta
van Loon	Willem	Netherlands
Lopes	Clara	Portugal
Moura	Isabel	Portugal
Moutinho	Sandra	Portugal
Raimundo	Joana	Portugal
Robic	Uros	Slovenia
Zorzo	Pilar	Spain
González Fernández	Daniel	Spain

Delegate		Country/Organisation
Blidberg	Eva	Sweden
Eriksson	Johanna	Sweden
Andersson	Åsa	Sweden
RSCs		
Knezevic	Jelena	MAP, Barcelona Convention
Hema	Tatjana	MAP, Barcelona Convention
Makarenko	Irina	BSC
Ruiz	Marta	HELCOM
Stamp	Philip	OSPAR
Organisations and NGOs		
Volckaert	Annemie	ARCADIS
Vinci	Matteo	EMODnet
Giorgetti	Alessandra	EMODNET
Molina	Eugenia	EMODNET
Cociancich	Alexia	EMODNET
Vlahogianni	Thomais	Mio ECSDE
Mongodin	Frédérique	Seas at Risk
Bruge	Antoine	Surfrider
Collot	Anne Gaëlle	PlasticsEurope
Pia Oberc	Barbara	IUCN
Sousa	Joao	IUCN
Gago	Jesus	EUROMARINE
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