

## Summary of Marine Litter Policy Options

Marine litter is a complex problem originating from a variety of land- and sea-based sources that negatively impact the environment, society and the economy. Mitigating this problem requires a policy mix addressing the sources and impacts of marine litter at the most appropriate geographical levels. To tackle this challenge, the CleanSea project developed a **portfolio of policy options** for the relevant authorities in the four EU marine regions: the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Baltic Sea and North-East Atlantic Ocean. The resulting policy options aim to prevent and reduce marine litter and, in particular, to support the implementation of the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>1</sup>** (MSFD). They include not only those measures and practices that can be implemented quickly within the first MSFD cycle (before 2018), but also longer-term options to address structural gaps and shortcomings in the policy framework and institutional set-up.

### Key marine litter items in the four marine regions<sup>2</sup>

Rank	Baltic Sea	Black Sea	Mediterranean Sea	North Sea
1	Cigarette butts	Cigarette butts	Smoking related products (butts, packages, lighters)	String and cord (diameter < 1 cm)
2	Caps/lids (total)	Crisp/sweet packets, lolly sticks (total)	Plastic bottles	Caps/lids (total)
3	Foam sponge (total)	Drink bottles (total)	Plastic bags	Cotton bud sticks
4	Other ceramic/pottery items	Caps/lids (total)	Aluminium beverage cans	Crisp/sweet packets, lolly sticks (total)
5	Bags (e.g. shopping)	Drink cans	Packaging, food wrappers, containers	Rope (diameter > 1 cm)
6	Food incl. fast food containers	Small plastic bags, e.g. freezer bags	Cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons	Nets and pieces of net < 50 cm
7	Bottle caps	Food incl. fast food containers	Straws	Nets and pieces of net < 50 cm
8	Cutlery/trays/straws (total)	Cups	Plastic pieces	Food incl. fast food containers
9	Wood Crates	Clothing	Sanitary waste (cotton bud sticks, tampon applicators etc.)	Drink bottles (total)
10	Crisp/sweet packets, lolly sticks (total)	Bottle caps	Fishing nets and fishing traps	Cigarette butts

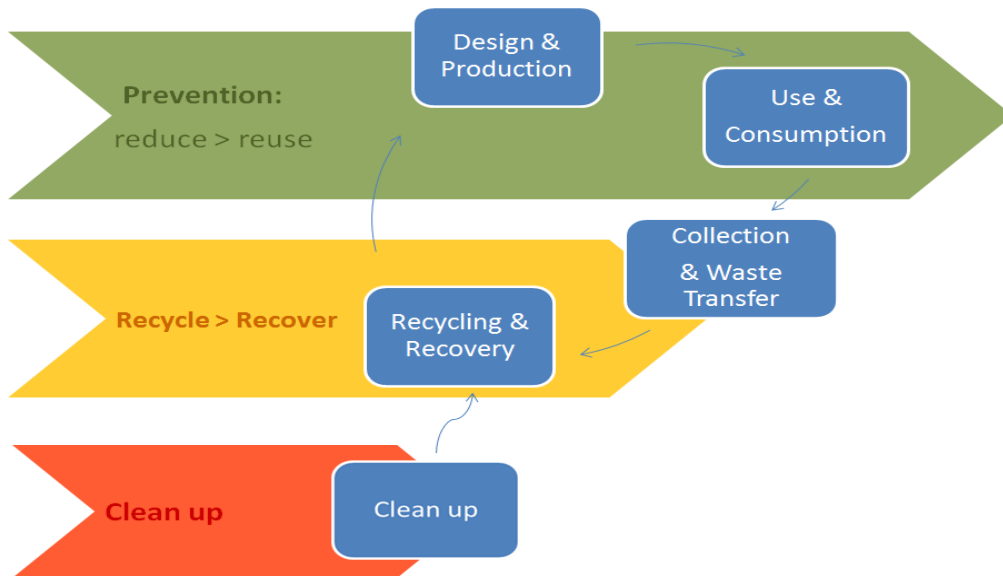
<sup>1</sup> Directive 2008/56/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy.

<sup>2</sup> Based on: Arcadis, Milieu & EUCC (2012), and the outcomes of the project *Technical and administrative support for the joint implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the EU Mediterranean Member States (Phase II)*.

Unlike previous studies, we focused on policy options to make product-to-waste chains in their entirety more sustainable and proposed **region-specific mixes of measures and practices** targeting the main drivers, sources and impacts of marine litter in each of the four EU seas. Our analysis builds on earlier research performed in the CleanSea project, including the analysis of institutional and legal gaps and barriers to marine litter reduction<sup>3</sup> and the inventory of best practices in the EU.<sup>4</sup>

On top of the best practices identified in our earlier research, we have included existing as well as additional measures, taken from the Regional Action Plans (RAPs) developed by the Regional Sea Conventions and selected Programmes of Measures (PoMs) made by the EU Member States. The actual assessment has been performed by applying a multi-criteria analysis (MCA). This analysis resulted in lists of **best ranked measures and practices** per region in terms of (potential) effectiveness.

The assessment of measures and practices showed that major positive impacts are most likely to be achieved when the **focus is on specific marine litter types**. However, several of the **most abundant litter items** (see table) are not appropriately addressed as yet, such as cigarette butts, packaging, and single-use items (e.g. drink bottles and cans, plastic straws and cutlery, food containers and wrappers). Here, aside from economic instruments, stronger regulatory measures and increased support for innovation are important policy options.



### The 'product-to-waste cycle'

<sup>3</sup> Altvater, S., van der Grijp, N.M., Valkov, A., Kalfagianni, A., Hadzhiyska, D., Fernandez, P., Smith, L., Reid, A., Boteler, B., Skourtos, M. & A. Kontogianni (2013). Towards effective regional action plans and programmes of measures for marine litter in the EU: an analysis of institutional and legal gaps and barriers. EU FP7 CleanSea project, D5.13.

<sup>4</sup> Kalfagianni, A., Altvater, S., Fernández Bautista, P., Krüger, I., Pavlova, D., Schmidt, S., Smith, L.O., van der Grijp, N.M., & Veiga, J.M. (2015). Best practices for marine litter reduction in the EU. EU FP7 CleanSea project, D5.14.

The most **powerful stages for intervening** in the current product-to-waste cycles are ‘design and production’ and ‘use and consumption’. However, our study showed that these stages are currently less targeted than collection and clean-up. Policies should therefore be better steered to ensure that products are designed to be **long-lasting and reused, repairable and remanufacturable**, with the most effective use of resources, minimizing the use of virgin non-degradable materials and of toxic substances. The recently published **EU Action Plan for a Circular Economy**<sup>5</sup> is an important first step in the direction of abandoning the current linear economy as it targets the volumes of un-recycled waste produced, resulting in lower volumes of waste becoming marine litter.

Most of the measures taken in the four EU marine regions have a limited geographical scope, as they mainly apply to the local or national level. If successful measures were to be **upscaled** and implemented more widely, their impact might increase significantly. However, it has to be kept in mind that measures that are successful in one region may not have the same impact in other regions, and therefore need to be adjusted to local contexts and circumstances. At the same time, there exist many commonalities between the four regions, which justify increased mutual cooperation to exchange information and **learn from each other’s good and best practices**. Such cooperation may eventually require new joint institutional processes and a better use of existing institutions in the four regions.

The majority of the measures currently being taken have a **voluntary nature**, which means they are not legally binding and government has a less prominent role. These measures vary from local, one-issue approaches to ambitious, sectoral agreements. Although private stakeholders often have the lead in such initiatives, this does not mean that government should not be involved. On the contrary, the **role of government has proven pivotal in the success of voluntary initiatives** through the provision of targets in the context of broader regulatory frameworks, but also in terms of providing access to resources and people, and in some cases also financial support. It is therefore of major importance that Member States create institutional settings that facilitate partnerships and voluntary agreements, especially in the sectors that are the main drivers of marine litter. Such settings should also include adequate mechanisms for monitoring effectiveness.

Focusing on the assessments and policy mixes developed for each of the four regions, the outcomes can be summarised as follows. Our assessment for the **Baltic Sea region** showed that several measures and practices are already in place covering the most important marine litter items. In addition, various new measures are planned that are likely to address the most obvious gaps. However, a closer look reveals that many measures, especially those linked to the higher stages of the waste hierarchy, are implemented in a limited number of countries only (especially Sweden, Denmark and Germany). Thus, innovative approaches need to be spread more broadly among Member States in the Baltic. In order to achieve this, **political commitment** has to be strengthened and needs to be backed up by better compliance mechanisms and **control of effectiveness**.

The identified gaps in the current policy framework of the Baltic Sea region show a specific need for additional regulatory approaches in order to:

- ☸ Promote **prevention** of waste by designing effective behaviour change interventions;

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<sup>5</sup> COM (2015) 614/2, [http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/jobs-growth-investment/circular-economy/docs/communication-action-plan-for-circular-economy\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/jobs-growth-investment/circular-economy/docs/communication-action-plan-for-circular-economy_en.pdf)

- ☸ Develop specially designed **legislation for eco-innovation** and start-ups;
- ☸ Develop **local regulatory mandatory requirements to reduce plastic waste**, e.g. stricter regulations for event organisers to manage waste properly;
- ☸ Further develop regulatory frameworks and **strengthen control**, including bans and fees with a focus on certain types of marine litter (e.g. cigarette butts, single-use products, etc.);
- ☸ Create binding obligations for national administrations to include the marine litter topic into national school **educational programmes**.

In addition, **voluntary measures** that showed to be effective locally can be scaled-up. For example, intensified dialogue and networking with fishermen could be more effective than prosecution and fines. In addition, successful measures and practices from other regional seas (e.g. Courtauld Commitment, Green Deals, “Fishing for Litter” initiatives, etc.) could be adopted.

See the resulting policy mix for the Baltic Sea region in Annex A below.

For the **Black Sea region**, it can be concluded that in parallel with strengthening the political commitments in the region, increased effort should be allocated on specific regulatory measures, such as:

- ☸ Further development of the regulatory framework and **strengthening of control**, including bans and fees with a focus on certain types of marine litter (e.g. cigarette butts, single-use products, etc.).
- ☸ Promote **prevention** of waste and increase **waste management** efforts.

In terms of further marine litter reduction, it is also essential to scale-up voluntary types of measures that showed to be effective elsewhere in the region and to adopt successful measures and practices from other regional seas (e.g. Green Deals, port-reception fees, “fishing for litter” initiatives, etc.).

Additional measures addressing **institutional gaps** and enhancing **stakeholder involvement** may include to:

- ☸ **Transfer knowledge** from other regional seas and improve regional and inter-regional cooperation with responsible authorities to achieve an improved state of marine waters.
- ☸ Improve **public awareness** and **stakeholder involvement** in the marine litter issue. Businesses should be actively involved and recognised as important stakeholders with capacity to influence the early stages of the ‘product-to-waste cycle’ – design and production as well as packaging - and to potentially provide financial support to relevant marine litter initiatives.
- ☸ Improve **institutional capacity** and build up specific expertise on marine litter within the administration.
- ☸ Develop a plan for **monitoring the effectiveness** of the measures implemented.

See the resulting policy mix for the Black Sea region in Annex B below.

The assessment for the **Mediterranean Sea region** identified the need for **stronger regulatory measures**, as there is currently a predominance of voluntary approaches. Although the new measures proposed in the RAP already show a more balanced combination of regulatory and non-regulatory measures, urgent governmental action is still required in order to:

- Address the **earlier stages of design & production** to achieve waste reduction;
- Tackle waste produced in the sectors of **tourism and recreation** as well as **maritime transport** more effectively;
- Address litter originating from **aquaculture, agriculture and industrial activities**;
- Improve collection, in particular relating to specific, most common litter items; promotion of **recyclability** and improvement of **recycling rates**;
- Target **specific categories of litter**, such as smoking-related items (e.g. cigarette butts), single-use packaging and service items (e.g. drink bottles and cans, plastic straws and cutlery, food containers and wrappers).

See the resulting policy mix for the Mediterranean Sea region in Annex C below.

With regard to the **North-East Atlantic region**, the analysis showed that there are already **many examples of existing measures and practices**, and that some additional ones are planned where the needs for an extra effort are the highest. The major challenge in this region is now to upscale successful measures and practices and to **implement them more widely and evenly** throughout the region. In addition, a major effort is needed to monitor these measures and practices for their effectiveness.

Focusing on the top 10 items found in the North-East Atlantic region, it is evident that the existing measures and practices cover them quite adequately or are expected to do so in the near future. However, there is a need for additional measures to prohibit littering on beaches, especially focused on **cigarette butts, balloons and plastic bags**.

Additional measures that could **strengthen the preventative approach** and have a longer time horizon relate to stimulating enhanced corporate responsibility and environmental liability, marine-friendly innovation and product development, and smart packaging. Policy instruments that may serve as catalysts for such developments are the well-targeted spending of **EU structural funds** and the **greening of public procurement**. Finally, an urgent appeal on citizens to deal more responsibly with waste could be strengthened via educational activities aiming to achieve an **anti-littering culture**. More coercive measures, such as putting fines on undesired behaviour and mandatory participation in clean-up activities, could be effective, particularly in the short-term.

See the resulting policy mix for the North-East Atlantic region in Annex D below.

## Annex A: Policy Mix for the Baltic Sea region

### Legend:

Implemented Measures that can be extended

Foreseen Measures (PoM)

New measures (e.g. innovative or from other regional seas (RSs))

### Regulatory measures

Soft/co-management measures

### Sources:

1 – HELCOM RAP

2 – Proposals from former CleanSea reports, CleanSea Stakeholder Workshop Baltic Sea

3 – PoM Germany

4 – PoM Sweden

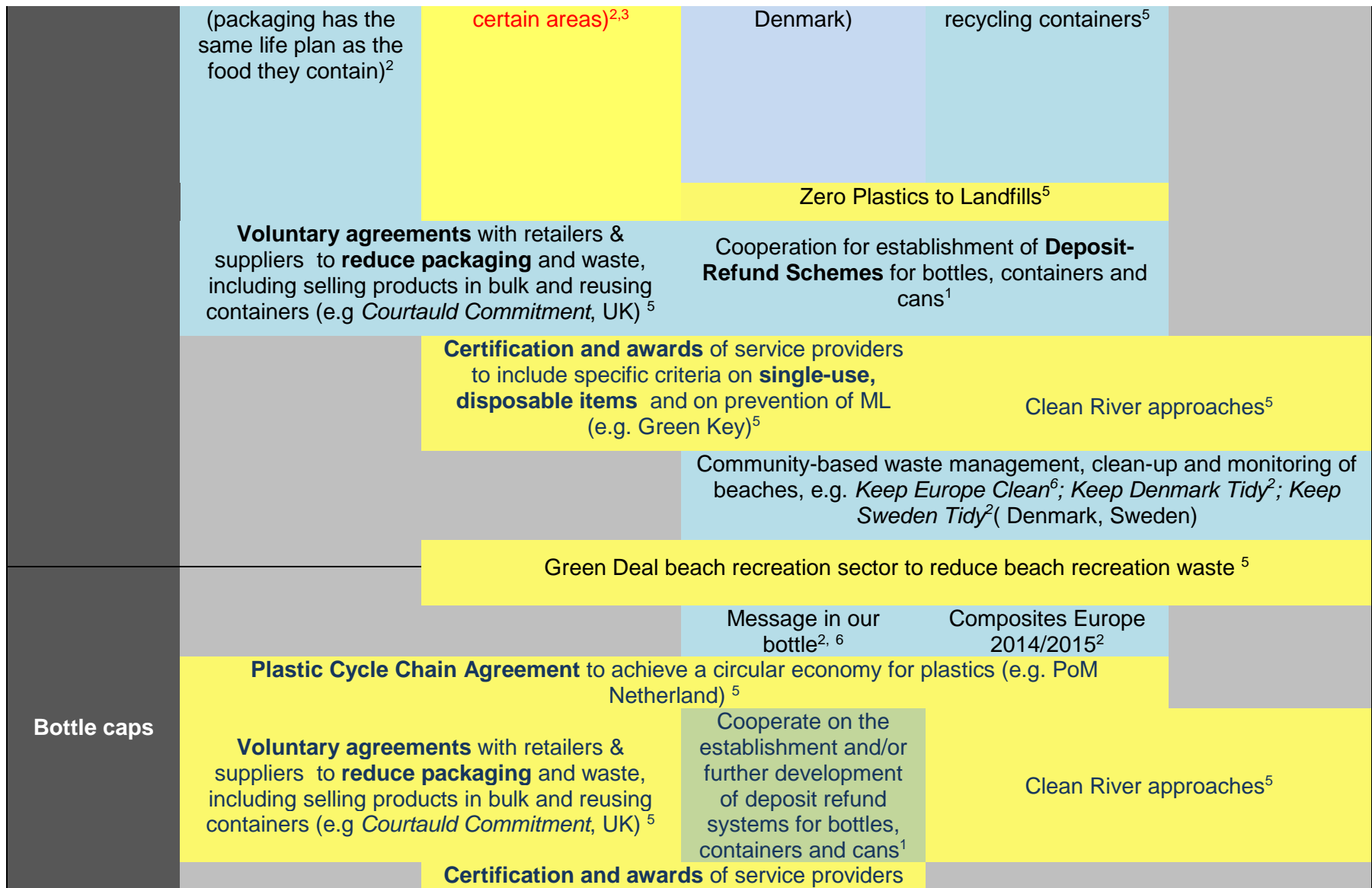
5 – Other EU region

6 – cross-regional (e.g. USA)

POLICY MIX BALTIC SEA REGION					
	Design & Production	Use & Consumption	Collection & Waste Transfer	Treatment & Recycling	Clean-up
Smoking related items	Substitution of cigarette butts (cellulose-acetate) through natural materials <sup>4</sup>	Smoking ban on beaches <sup>5</sup>	Higher penalties for improper disposal of cigarette butts <sup>2/5</sup>		Keep Europe Clean <sup>6</sup>
			Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches (e.g. <i>Adopt-a-Beach</i> , <i>My Beach</i> ) <sup>5</sup> Green Deal beach recreation sector to reduce beach recreation waste <sup>5</sup>		
Caps/lids	Voluntary agreements with retailers & suppliers to reduce packaging and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g. <i>Courtauld Commitment</i> , UK) <sup>5</sup>		Garbage deposit refund scheme on festivals <sup>2</sup> (Germany, Denmark) Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches, e.g. <i>Keep Europe Clean</i> <sup>6</sup> ; <i>Keep Denmark Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> ; <i>Keep Sweden Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> (Sweden, Denmark)		
		Certification and awards of service providers to include specific criteria on single-use, disposable items and on prevention of ML (e.g. <i>Green Key</i> ) <sup>5</sup>	Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches (e.g. <i>Adopt-a-Beach</i> , <i>My Beach</i> ) <sup>5</sup>		
Foam sponge	Extended Producer Responsibility Strategies requiring producers to be responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product <sup>1</sup>				
String & cord		Environmental assessment of requirements to reduce balloons in the public <sup>4</sup>	Message in our bottle <sup>6</sup>	'Jutbakken' (large waste bins on beaches) <sup>5</sup>	

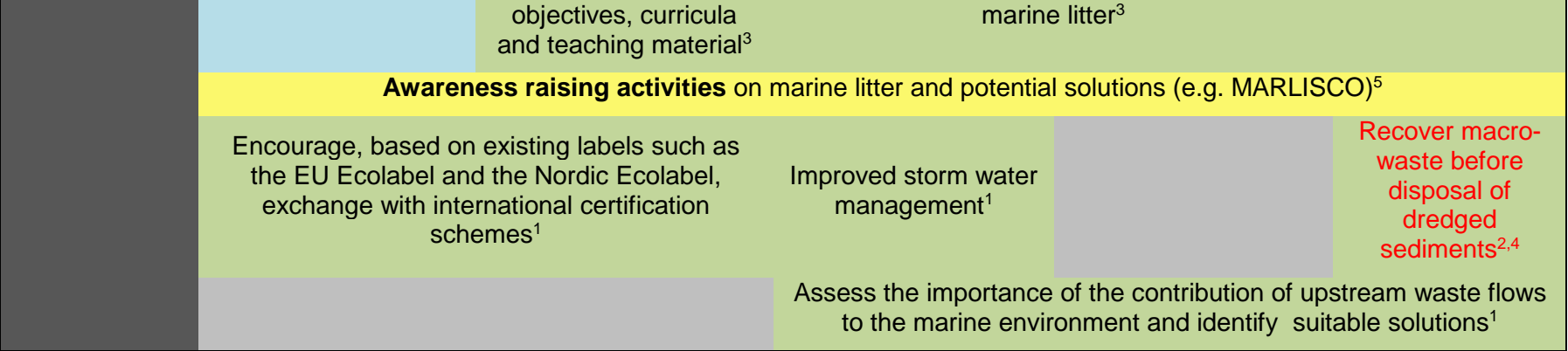
		Ban on balloons <sup>5</sup>			
		Substitution of plastic string for balloons by natural materials <sup>4</sup>	Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches, e.g. <i>Keep Europe Clean</i> <sup>6</sup> ; <i>Keep Denmark Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> ; <i>Keep Sweden Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> (Denmark, Sweden)		
	Green Deal beach recreation sector to reduce beach recreation waste <sup>5</sup>				
Plastic bags	Extended Producer Responsibility Strategies requiring producers to be responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product <sup>1</sup>				
	Ban on oxo-degradable carrier bags <sup>5</sup>	Refillable containers for food (Germany, Denmark, Sweden)		Awareness campaigns to encourage supermarkets for recycling containers (Denmark)	
			Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches, e.g. <i>Keep Europe Clean</i> <sup>6</sup> ; <i>Keep Denmark Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> ; <i>Keep Sweden Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> (Denmark, Sweden)		
		Voluntary agreements with retailers & suppliers to reduce packaging and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers <sup>1</sup>		Composites Europe 2014/2015 <sup>2</sup> (Germany)	
			New plastic bags recovery routes <sup>2</sup>		
			Zero Plastics to Landfills <sup>5</sup>		
Food packaging incl. fast food containers	Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement to achieve a circular economy for plastics (e.g. PoM Netherland) <sup>5</sup>				
	Product design studio project: This Too Shall Pass	Ban single-use products (e.g. from	Garbage deposit refund scheme on festivals <sup>2</sup> (Germany,	Awareness campaigns to encourage supermarkets for	





Culery, trays & straws	Alternative materials for single-use straws <sup>5</sup>	to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. <i>Green Key</i> ) <sup>5</sup>	Garbage deposit refund scheme on festivals <sup>2</sup> (Germany, Denmark)	
	Re-usable straws <sup>1/3/5</sup>	Don't provide straws with the drink by default <sup>5</sup>		
Extended Producer Responsibility Strategies requiring producers to be responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product <sup>1</sup>				
		Ban single-use products (e.g. from certain areas) <sup>5</sup>	Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches, e.g. <i>Keep Europe Clean</i> <sup>6</sup> ; <i>Keep Denmark Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> ; <i>Keep Sweden Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> (Denmark, Sweden)	
Fishing & aquaculture gear	Alternative for all kind of nets <sup>1/3/5</sup>		Higher penalties for improper disposal of fishing gear (backed by communication strategy) <sup>2</sup>	Jutbakken <sup>1</sup> (large waste bins on beaches) <sup>5</sup> Clean-up actions of beaches (e.g. <i>Boskalis Beach Clean-up Tour</i> ) <sup>5</sup>
				Fishing-for-Litter <sup>5</sup> Collection and removal of old or abandoned nets for recycling and incorporation in new products (e.g. <i>HealthySeas Initiative</i> ) <sup>5</sup>
				Green Deal fisheries sectors to reduce fishing waste <sup>5</sup>
Snack packets & Lolly sticks	Extended Producer Responsibility Strategies requiring producers to be responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product <sup>1</sup>			
	Voluntary agreements with retailers & suppliers to reduce packaging and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing		Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches (e.g. <i>Adopt-a-Beach, My Beach</i> ) <sup>5</sup> ; Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of	

	containers (e.g. <i>Courtauld Commitment</i> , UK) <sup>5</sup>	beaches, e.g. <i>Keep Europe Clean</i> <sup>6</sup> ; <i>Keep Denmark Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> ; <i>Keep Sweden Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> (Sweden, Denmark)
	<b>Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement</b> to achieve a circular economy for plastics (e.g. PoM Netherland) <sup>5</sup>	
	<b>Certification and awards</b> of service providers to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. <i>Green Key</i> ) <sup>5</sup>	
	Zero Plastics to Landfills <sup>5</sup>	
General	Product designed for reuse <sup>2, 3</sup>	Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches, e.g. <i>Keep Europe Clean</i> <sup>6</sup> ; <i>Keep Denmark Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> ; <i>Keep Sweden Tidy</i> <sup>2</sup> (Denmark, Sweden)
	Modification/substitution of products to reduce the negative impact of marine litter on the environment and find alternative materials <sup>3</sup>	Regular removal of ML in accumulation and sensitive areas <sup>1,2</sup>
	Reduction of plastic waste by local regulatory mandatory requirements (e.g. polluter-pays-principle for pathways of plastic, stricter approval requirements for event organiser) <sup>3</sup>	
	<b>Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement</b> to achieve a circular economy for plastics (e.g. PoM Netherland) <sup>5</sup>	
	Reduction of the input of plastic waste into the marine environment (development of existing waste treatment systems, improvement of sustainable product and packaging designs) <sup>3</sup>	Clean-ups at river mouth area <sup>2</sup>
	Coordinated Clean-up Day for the Region <sup>5</sup>	
Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to develop design improvements and to reduce over-packaging <sup>1</sup>	During revision of municipal waste plans: identify and highlight how waste management can contribute to reducing the emergence of marine litter and establish objectives for such work <sup>4</sup>	Dive Against Debris <sup>2</sup>
QMilk <sup>2</sup> Eco Design Refills <sup>6</sup>	Linking the topic of marine litter to learning	National and local waste prevention and waste management plans: to include a reference to
		Regular clean-up campaigns <sup>1,2</sup>



## Annex B: Policy Mix for the Black Sea region

### Legend:

Implemented Measures that can be extended

Foreseen Measures (PoM)

New measures (e.g. innovative or from other RSs)

CleanSea Stakeholder Workshops Black Sea

Regulatory measures

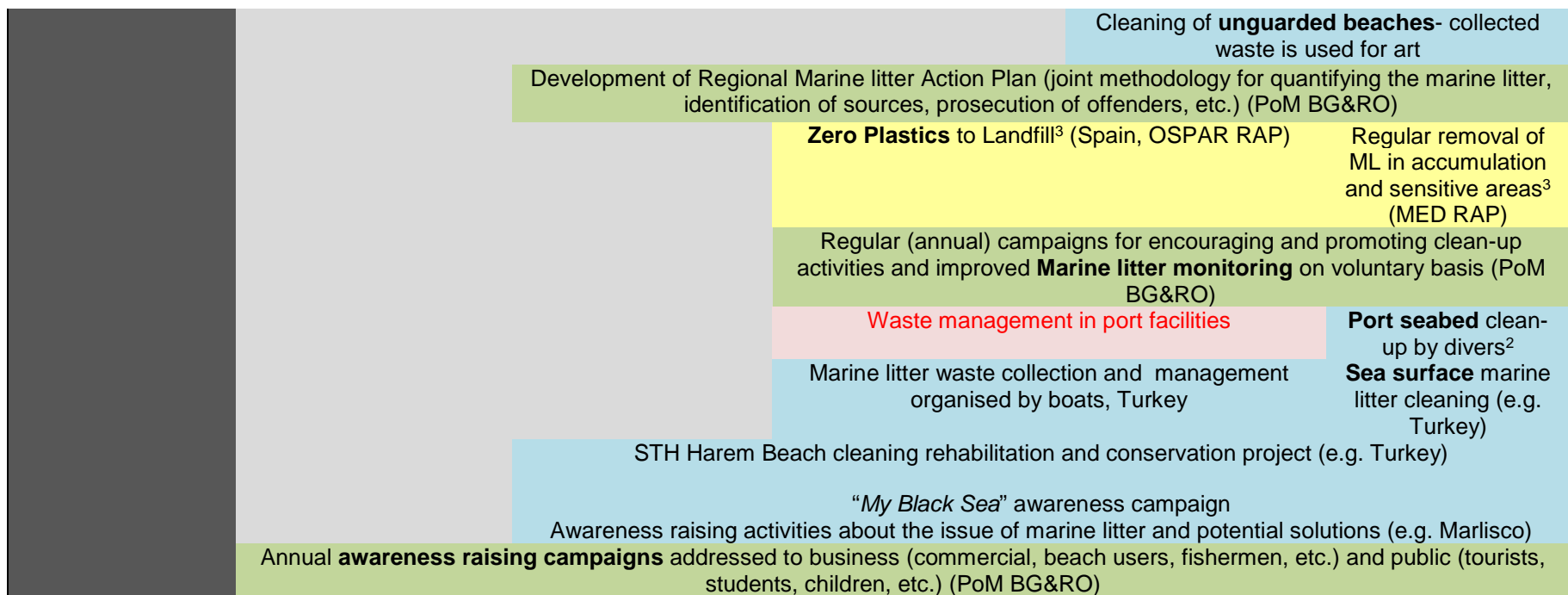
Soft/co-management measures

### Sources:

- 1- PoM (transboundary context - Bulgaria and Romania)
- 2- Stakeholder workshops
- 3- Other EU region
- 4- Elsewhere

POLICY MIX BLACK SEA REGION					
	Design & Production	Use & Consumption	Collection & Waste transfer	Treatment & Recycling	Clean-up
Cigarette butts		Ban smoking on beaches <sup>3</sup> (France)			
Snack packets, lolly sticks, straws	Alternative materials for single-use straws Re-usable straws				
Drink bottles	Voluntary agreements with retailers & suppliers		Cooperation for establishment of Deposit-Refund		

<b>Caps/lids</b>	to <b>reduce packaging</b> and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g. Courtauld Commitment, UK; MED RAP)	<b>Schemes</b> for bottles, containers and cans (inc. lids) <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Drink cans</b>			Cleaning of <b>unguarded beaches</b> - collected waste is used for art <sup>2</sup>
<b>Small plastic bags</b>	<b>Voluntary agreements</b> with retailers & suppliers to <b>reduce packaging</b> and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g. Courtauld Commitment, UK; MED RAP)		
<b>Food containers</b>		<b>Certification and awards</b> of service providers to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. Green Key) <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Cups</b>		<b>Ban single-use products</b> (e.g. from certain areas) <sup>4</sup>	Cleaning of <b>unguarded beaches</b> - collected waste is used for art <sup>2</sup>
<b>Clothing</b>			
<b>Bottle caps</b>			Cleaning of <b>unguarded beaches</b> - collected waste is used for art <sup>2</sup>
		Cooperation for establishment of <b>Deposit-Refund Schemes</b> for bottles, containers and cans <sup>3</sup>	
	Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement to achieve a circular economy for plastics (PoM Netherlands) <sup>3</sup>		
<b>General</b>		" <b>Round table</b> " on improving the ecological status of the Black Sea waters Cooperation between institutions (Bulgaria) <sup>2</sup>	<b>Voluntary</b> beach clean-up (e.g. Coastwatch Constanta; <i>Let's do it, Romania!</i> ; <i>Let's do it, Europe</i> )
	Inclusion of marine litter and its impacts in waste management plans (HELCOM) <sup>3</sup>		



## Annex C: Policy Mix for the Mediterranean Sea region

### Legend:

Implemented Measures that can be extended

Foreseen Measures (e.g. RAP, PoMs)

New measures (e.g. innovative or from other RSs)

CleanSea Stakeholder Workshop MED

Regulatory measures

Soft/comanagement measures

**Sources**

- 1 – MED RAP
- 2 – Project for joint implementation of MSFD in the MED, Phase II (ENV.D.2/FRA/2012/0017)
- 3 – Stakeholders' Workshop (Venice, October 2015 and Madrid, November 2015)
- 4 – PoM France
- 5 – OSPAR Area or RAP
- 6 – HELCOM Area or RAP
- 7 - Elsewhere (e.g. USA)



POLICY MIX MEDITERRANEAN SEA REGION					
	Design & Production	Use & Consumption	Collection & Waste transfer	Treatment & Recycling	Clean-up
Smoking related items	Eco-design: Biodegradable cigarette filters <sup>3</sup>	Ban smoking on beaches (e.g. France)	Higher penalties for improper disposal of cigarette butts <sup>3</sup> Awareness raising and modes to collect cigarette butts (e.g. astray distribution in beaches)		
Plastic bottles	Voluntary agreements with retailers & suppliers to reduce packaging and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g Courtauld Commitment, UK) <sup>1,5</sup>				
		Cooperation for establishment of Deposit-Refund Schemes for bottles, containers and cans <sup>6</sup> Drinkable water publically available for refills <sup>3</sup>			
Plastic Bags	Ban on oxo-degradable carrier bags				
	Voluntary agreements with retailers & suppliers to reduce packaging and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g Courtauld Commitment, UK) <sup>1,5</sup>				
Aluminum drink cans		Cooperation for establishment of Deposit-Refund Schemes for bottles, containers and cans <sup>6</sup>			
		Certification and awards			

Food wrappers & containers	<p><b>Ban polystyrene packaging</b> 3,7</p>	<p>of service providers to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. Green Key)</p>	
Plastic cups & cutlery	<p><b>Voluntary agreements</b> with retailers &amp; suppliers to <b>reduce packaging</b> and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g Courtauld Commitment, UK) 1,5</p>		
		<p><b>Ban single-use products</b> (e.g. from certain areas) 7</p> <p><b>Certification and awards</b> of service providers to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. Green Key)</p>	
Straws	<p>Design &amp; market <b>Re-usable straws</b></p> <p><b>Alternative materials</b> for single-use straws</p>	<p>Straws are only provided with drink <b>upon request</b> 3</p> <p><b>Ban single-use products</b> (e.g. from certain areas) 7</p> <p><b>Voluntary agreements</b> with retailers &amp; suppliers to <b>reduce packaging</b> and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g Courtauld Commitment, UK) 1,5</p>	
Sanitary waste	<p><b>Ban of plastic cotton-bud sticks</b></p> <p><b>Awareness campaigns</b> for proper disposal of sanitary waste, including <b>labeling</b> (e.g. <i>Bag it and Bin it, Don't Flush it</i>, UK) 5</p>		<p><b>Improvement of Waste Water Treatment Plants</b> to retain microplastics and fibres from urban and industrial effluents<sup>3</sup></p>

Fishing/ aquaculture gear	Innovative alternatives for aquaculture gear based on neutral, biodegradable materials <sup>3</sup>	Use of alternative materials in aquaculture (e.g. cotton mussel socks) <sup>3</sup>	Explore possibility of gear marking <sup>1</sup>	
		Use of alternative materials for fishing nets, pots & traps <sup>1</sup>	Collection and removal of old or abandoned nets for recycling and incorporation in new products (e.g. <i>HealthySeas</i> Initiative) <sup>2</sup>	
General	Extended Producer Responsibility strategies, following waste hierarchy: reusability, durability, recyclability of products but also less resources and toxicity <sup>1,3</sup>			Clean-ups at river mouth area <sup>2</sup>
	Voluntary agreements with retailers & suppliers to reduce packaging and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g. Courtauld Commitment, UK) <sup>1,5</sup>		Innovative technologies on sorting of municipal waste and energy recovery on non-recyclable waste (Germany) <sup>5</sup>	Collection of ML removed during normal fishing operations - <i>Fishing for Litter</i> <sup>3</sup>
				Regular beach clean-up campaigns <sup>1,2</sup>
		Recycling companies that up/downcycle difficult-to-recycle items (e.g. coffee-capsules - <i>Tassimo Brigade</i> , UK) <sup>5</sup>		Regular removal of ML in accumulation and sensitive areas <sup>1,2</sup>
	Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement to achieve a circular economy for plastics (PoM Netherlands) <sup>5</sup>			Removal of macro-waste before disposal of dredged sediments in the sea <sup>2,4</sup>
	Sustainable Procurements to encourage markets for products with recycled plastic <sup>1</sup>		Sustainable Procurements to encourage markets for products with recycled plastic <sup>1</sup>	Coordinated Clean-up Day for the MED Region <sup>1,2</sup>
	Zero Plastics to Landfill (OSPAR RAP) <sup>1,5</sup>		Dive Against Debris (seafloor clean-up by scuba-divers)	
	Inclusion of marine litter in waste management plans <sup>4,5</sup>			
	Awareness raising activities on marine litter and potential solutions (e.g. MARLISCO)			

**Certification and awards**  
of service providers to  
include specific criteria on  
**single-use, disposable  
items** and on prevention  
of ML (e.g. Green Key)

***Adopt-a-beach*** – community-based waste management, clean-up and  
monitoring of beaches<sup>1,2</sup>

## Annex D: Policy Mix for the North-East Atlantic region

### Legend:

Implemented Measures that can be extended

Foreseen Measures (e.g. RAP, PoMs)

New measures (e.g. innovative or from other RSs)

Regulatory measures

Soft/comanagement measures

### Sources:

1 – OSPAR RAP

2 –PoM Belgium

3 - PoM The Netherlands

4 - PoM The UK

POLICY MIX NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC					
	Design & Production	Use & Consumption	Collection & Waste transfer	Treatment & Recycling	Clean-up
String & cord		Ban on release of balloons <sup>3</sup>			'Jutbakken' (large waste bins on beaches) <sup>3</sup>
			Green Deal to reduce beach recreation waste <sup>3</sup>		
Caps/lids			Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches e.g. <i>Adopt-a-Beach</i> <sup>4</sup> ; <i>My Beach</i> <sup>3</sup>		
		Certification and awards of service providers to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. Green Key) <sup>3</sup>			
	Voluntary agreements with retailers & suppliers to <b>reduce packaging</b> and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g.				

	Courtauld Commitment, UK) <sup>4</sup>		
	<b>Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement</b> to achieve a circular economy for plastics <sup>3</sup>		
		Green Deal to reduce beach recreation waste <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Cotton bud sticks</b>	<b>Alternative for plastic cotton bud sticks</b>		
	<b>Awareness campaigns</b> for proper disposal of sanitary waste, including <b>labeling</b> (e.g. <i>Bag it and Bin it, Don't Flush it</i> , UK) <sup>4</sup>		
<b>Snack package and lolly-sticks</b>		<b>Certification and awards</b> of service providers to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. Green Key) <sup>3</sup>	
	<b>Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement</b> to achieve a circular economy for plastics <sup>3</sup>		
	<b>Voluntary agreements</b> with retailers & suppliers to <b>reduce packaging</b> and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g. Courtauld Commitment, UK) <sup>4</sup>	Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches e.g. <i>Adopt-a-Beach</i> <sup>4</sup> ; <i>My Beach</i> <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Rope</b>		Green Deal to reduce shipping waste <sup>3</sup>	'Jutbakken' (large waste bins on beaches) <sup>3</sup>
		Green Deal to reduce fishing waste <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Nets &amp; pieces of nets</b>	<b>Innovative alternatives for fishing gear</b> (e.g. dolly rope) based on <b>neutral, biodegradable materials</b> <sup>2,3</sup>	Green Deal to reduce fishing waste <sup>3</sup>	'Jutbakken' (large waste bins on beaches) <sup>3</sup>
		<b>Collection and removal</b> of old or abandoned nets for <b>recycling</b> and incorporation in <b>new products</b> (e.g. <i>HealthySeas Initiative</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Food containers</b>	<b>Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement</b> to achieve a circular economy for plastics <sup>3</sup>		
		Green Deal beach to reduce beach recreation waste <sup>3</sup>	
	<b>Certification and awards</b> of service providers to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. Green Key) <sup>3</sup>		
	<b>Voluntary agreements</b> with retailers & suppliers to <b>reduce packaging</b> and waste, including selling products in bulk and reusing containers (e.g. Courtauld Commitment, UK) <sup>4</sup>	Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches e.g. <i>Adopt-a-Beach</i> <sup>4</sup> ; <i>My Beach</i> <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Drink bottles</b>		<b>Certification and awards</b> of service providers to include specific criteria on <b>single-use, disposable items</b> and on prevention of ML (e.g. Green Key) <sup>3</sup>	

		Green Deal to reduce beach recreation waste <sup>3</sup>
Plastic bags	Ban on plastic bags	
Cigarette butts	Smoking ban on beaches	
		Green Deal to reduce beach recreation waste <sup>3</sup>
General	Plastic Cycle Chain Agreement to achieve a circular economy for plastics <sup>3</sup>	
	Community-based waste management, clean-up and monitoring of beaches e.g. <i>Adopt-a-Beach</i> <sup>4</sup> ; <i>My Beach</i> <sup>3</sup>	
	Clean River approaches <sup>3,4</sup> Voluntary Beach Clean-up actions (e.g. <i>Boskalis Beach Clean-up Tour</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	
		Collection of ML removed during normal fishing operations - <i>Fishing-for-Litter</i> <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>



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