

Resolution of the Marine Litter Round Table within the Baltic Sea Day Forum 21 March 2019

The goals of the Round table:

To discuss marine litter and microplastics problem and solutions, current status and suggestions to contribute to the implementation of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, to discuss the problem of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and present regional beach cleaning activities.

Participants to the Round table propose the following policy and operational measures to reduce marine litter and microplastics pollution in the Baltic Sea:

1. Include Hazardous Substances as a section of the BSAP update, where marine litter and microplastics are addressed.
2. Increase research efforts on marine litter and microplastic pollution in all marine compartments (water, sediment and biota), aiming at identifying pollution sources and developing protection measures.
3. Develop national legislation to prevent and minimize one of the main sources of plastic and microplastic litter: single-use plastic items (i.a. prohibition of production and retail of these products).
4. Support and widely disseminate organizations' and municipal initiatives addressing the reduction and prevention of single-use plastic items.
5. Promote education and raising public awareness initiatives on preventing marine litter reaching the Baltic Sea. In particular, promote those initiatives aiming at forming consumer choice based on refusal of single-use plastic items - both within and without curricular education, in cooperation with all stakeholders.
6. Cooperate with the business industry, including retail sector, on the development of design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and the reduction of over-packaging as well as the promotion of wise packaging.
7. Support the organization of public events in a greener and more sustainable manner including refuse of single-use items.
8. Further consider the feasibility of Coalition Clean Baltic recommendations on ways to reduce microplastics in stormwater and waste water:
 - Wetlands should be considered as an end of pipe solution to reduce microplastic entering the streams, rivers and sea
 - Monitoring of outgoing water from urban areas stormwater must be developed and implemented
 - All WWTP should establish testing of plastic particle content of outflowing water.
9. To utilize the recommendations of the MARELITT project ("Baltic Sea Blueprint") to further address abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) in the Baltic Sea region, in relation to:
 - Reduction of gear loss during fishing
 - Mapping of derelict fishing gear areas
 - Sustainable retrieval of derelict fishing gear

- Waste management solutions to improve recycling of retrieved derelict fishing gear.
10. Support annual “Clean Beach” actions experience as well as other cleanup and raising awareness activities (i.a. Blue Flag initiative, Let’s do It) and their expanding within all the Baltic Sea region.
 11. Widely inform that the use of geosynthetic material in coastal protection constructions located in wind wave action zones may cause long-term pollution of beaches by this material in case of destruction of these constructions.
 12. Support recently adopted UNEA-4 Resolutions addressing marine litter and microplastics:
 - Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics (UNEP/EA.4/L.7)
 - Addressing single-use plastic products pollution (UNEP/EA.4/L.10).