

*Pilot project: removal of marine litter
from Europe's four regional seas*

Regional Workshop Report San Remo (20 and 21 October 2014)



October 2014



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1 Introduction

The regional workshop in San Remo took place on 20-21 October 2014.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- bring stakeholders together around the theme of marine litter;
- disseminate the results of past monitoring & marine litter retention (MLR) projects;
- discuss the practical implications of the business case.

In total, 16 persons participated in the workshop on Day One, and 12 participants on Day Two – see Annex 2. The agenda of the workshop is included in Annex 1.



2 Day One

The regional workshop focused on the dissemination of the results of past monitoring and MLR projects. Relevant stakeholders, including the local fishery action group GAC and the harbour master, involved in the set-up of the business case, presented their information and details of the Croatian MARELITT project.

2.1 Introduction to the MARELITT Project

Stijn Lambert (ARCADIS) gave an introduction to the MARELITT project, the issue of marine litter, and the opportunity to implement projects for the collection of waste from European seas – notably the Mediterranean and the Ligurian Sea.

2.2 Review of previous project on marine litter

A review of past OLPA initiatives on the issue of marine litter was given by Maurizio Costa (OLPA), with special focus on the partnerships with the Liguria Region, professional fishermen, local authorities, and the corps of harbour masters.

2.3 Presentation of the Smile Project

Ilaria Fasce, of the Regione Liguria – Coastal and Water Environment Office, involved in the Life + project ‘Smile’, presented the topic of marine litter in the Liguria Region.

2.4 Monitoring marine litter in the framework of the Marine Strategy

An overview of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and related marine litter descriptors (D10) was given by Rosa Maria Bertolotto (ARPA¹ Liguria), who also presented the activities undertaken by ARPAL in the context of the Marine Strategy and the Smile project.

2.5 Monitoring marine litter using a trawl survey campaign

Fabrizio Serena (ARPA Toscana) gave an overview of the activities undertaken by ARPAT on marine litter – with focus on monitoring waste collected by fishing vessels with bottom trawling gear.

2.6 Prevention and fight against marine litter and pollution

Anne Vissio (RAMOGE) exchanged experiences on awareness-raising and monitoring activities of marine litter in the context of the RAMOGE Agreement. The RAMOGE work area includes the marine areas of the Region Provence/Alps/Côte d'Azur, the Principality of Monaco and the Liguria Region – forming a pilot area for the prevention and fight against marine pollution.

2.7 Impact of marine litter on marine mammals of the Pelagos Sanctuary

Fannie Dubois (PELAGOS) presented the Pelagos Agreement and the issue of marine litter in relation to the protection of marine mammals in the Pelagos Sanctuary.

2.8 The role of harbour masters in relation to marine litter

Pierpaolo Danieli (Maritime District Office of San Remo) explained the framework of duties of the corps of harbour masters in relation to marine litter and the protection of the environment.

2.9 The role of fishermen as guardians of the sea

Barbara Esposto (LegaPesca Liguria) reported on the national and regional campaigns, and marine litter removal activities in partnership with the fishermen belonging to the association Lega Pesca. She stressed the need to facilitate the disposal of marine litter collected by fishermen, which would otherwise be considered as 'special waste'.

2.10 Presentation of the MARELITT pilot project in Croatia

A presentation of the MARELITT pilot project was given by Mirta Smodlaka (RJB Institute), focusing on actions, expected achievements and potential obstacles for the Croatian business case.

2.11 Presentation of the MARELITT pilot project in Liguria

The MARELITT pilot project for the Liguria region was presented by Andrea Molinari (OLPA), highlighting the actions, expected achievements and potential obstacles.

3 Day Two

3.1 Funding opportunities for marine litter projects

On behalf of the Italian Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, funding opportunities were presented by Gloria Manaratti (Department of fisheries of the Ligurian region). She mentioned that several projects related to waste had been undertaken in the fishery sector and from these experiences, funding has been identified as one of the main threats and difficulties in guaranteeing the continued success of a project.

¹ AGENZIA REGIONALE PER LA PROTEZIONE DELL'AMBIENTE LIGURE

3.2 The impact of waste on the seabed

Professor Bavestrello (University of Genoa) stressed the negative impact of trawling on seabed habitats. Savona has one of the richest coral reefs in the Mediterranean and fishing gear that is simply dumped overboard is a problem in deep water, i.e. 70-500 metres, which is often neglected in discussions involving marine litter projects. Professor Bavestrello presented the best practice project Ecosofimed, for cleaning deep water and, within which, projects have been set up with fishermen in the towns of Paiti and Ponza.

3.3 The DeFishGear project in the Adriatic Sea

Paolo Pelusi (Consorzio Mediterraneo) presented the DeFishGear project in the Adriatic Sea. This project, founded via the Adriatic IPA², consists of 16 partners and 7 countries and has a project duration of 29 months – ending in March 2016.

The objective of the project is to retrieve Derelict Fishing Gear (DFG) & Marine Litter Retention (MLR). The project includes monitoring and designing a standard protocol for microplastics in the Adriatic Sea – the positive aspects and ongoing challenges of which were discussed, including cooperation with fishermen³. A remarkable outcome of the project is the recycling of fishing nets into e.g. socks, swim suits and carpets. Comparisons were made with the San Remo business case with several differences highlighted – including the morphology of the seabed⁴.

3.4 Round table on the practical implementation of the business case (Tavolo di lavoro)

With a group of 14 stakeholders, the business case was discussed in more detail. The outcomes of this round table are reflected in the current version of the business case. The waste department of San Remo could not be present, due to internal reorganisation. However, this partner is crucial for the effective implementation of the MLR project, therefore, a second round table needs to be organised with a core team of stakeholders, i.e. OLPA, the Port Authority of San Remo, San Remo municipality, GAC (local fishery action group) and fishermen.

4 Conclusions and actions

A variety of presentations of Italian/Ligurian research institutes and NGO's gave insight into the problem of marine litter in the Adriatic Sea. The main source of marine litter stems from rivers, entering the sea – especially during floods. According to several stakeholders and given evidence of this major pathway, focus should be directed to waste prevention and the optimisation of inland waste management. Based on the outcomes of the first day of the workshop, marine litter retention gained support, but only as a second best option – prevention activities should also be considered. One of the main hindrances of MLR is the legal aspects of waste, i.e. marine litter is, in Italy, categorised as 'special' waste and must be treated at higher costs – this deters fishermen from bringing litter on board their vessels in the first instance.

² On 25 March 2008, the European Commission approved a cross-border co-operation programme between three EU Member States (Greece, Italy, and Slovenia), and four candidate/potential candidate countries (Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro) for the period 2007-2013. The Programme was adopted under, and co-financed by, the cross-border co-operation component of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

³ At the beginning of the fishing season, fishermen are too focused on fishing, and less willing to cooperate. Further on in the season, more cooperation is witnessed.

⁴ The Adriatic Sea is a shallower sea with a sandy bottom, which is contrary of the features of the Ligurian Sea (deep sea with rocky substrate).

In the Ligurian region, several projects have been launched that study and monitor marine litter, e.g. ‘Smile’, Mare Pulito and Gionha. The main focus of these projects is/was on research and awareness-raising. Some marine litter retention projects have been undertaken, but none of them have continued due to lack of funding or the support of fishermen. A new initiative via MARELITT was, therefore, welcomed – provided that funding can be obtained. Fishermen support the proposal, but stressed the extra effort and time they would need to spend to retain marine litter from their nets and bring it to shore. The fact that, in practice, the “polluter does not pay” – in contrast with the polluter-pays-principle, they are reluctant to fully voluntary engagement, as proposed in MLR projects such as the MARELITT project.

4.1 Actions

	Who	Action	Due
1.	Barbara Esposito (LegaPesca)	Cooperation with the GAC in the new programmes, cooperation with other European GACs; potential cooperation with the FLAG (fishery local action group) for cleaning-up canals and streams	2015
		Providing a dissemination plan on inland towns and villages	2015-2016
2.	Harbour Master of San Remo	Enhancing the areas for the delivery/disposal of waste, actively participating in the project, providing incentives for the greater involvement of fishermen – and through tax reductions	2015-2016
3.	Municipality of San Remo	Involvement in the project (only in words)	2014-end of the project
		Finding an alternative for the categorisation of collected marine litter, i.e. not to be classified as “special” waste	2015
4.	Augusto Comes (Federco pesca)	Asking for real involvement of the Municipality, highlighting the added value for the award of the Blue Flag.	2014-first half 2015
5.	Gloria Manaratti (Regione Liguria)	Funding: suggestions for the project– waiting for FEAMP ⁵ programmes;	2014-first half of 2015
		Awareness-raising: stressing that the reduction of marine litter is crucial to the protection of “charismatic” species, such as sea turtles and dolphins, e.g. by installing transparent bins to show the amount of marine litter collected.	2015-end of the project
6.	Ilaria Fasce (Regione Liguria)	Monitoring: following the methodological guidelines as in the Marine Strategy, linking information on collected material to their potential source	2014-2020

⁵ EMFF: European Maritime and Fishery Fund

Annex 1: Workshop agenda

 Osservatorio Ligure
Pesca Ambiente
  Città di
Sanremo
  MARELITT
Pilot Project: Removal of Marine Litter
from Europe's Four Regional Seas

Prima Giornata
Lunedì 20 Ottobre 2014
Sala degli Specchi - Comune di Sanremo

9.30 Iscrizione

10.00 Saluti delle autorità del Comune di Sanremo e apertura lavori

Interventi

- 10.15 Dott. Stjin Lambert, Milieu Ltd, presentazione Progetto Marelitt
- 10.30 Dott. Maurizio Costa OLPA, ***l'esperienza pluriennale di Mare Pulito***
- 11.00 Dott. Ilana Fasce, Regione Liguria Settore Ecosistema Costiero e Ciclo delle acque
- 11.15 Dott.ssa Rosa Maria Bertolotto, Arpal

11.30 Coffee break

- 11.45 Dott. Barca Giovanni e Dott. Fabrizio Serena, Arpat, ***I rifiuti antropici rilevati nell'ambiente marino: gestione delle attività di indagine***
- 12.00 Dott.ssa Anne Vissio, Ramoge

12.30 Dibattito

12.45 Pausa pranzo

Interventi

- 14.15 Dott.ssa Fannie Dubois, Pelagos
- 14.30 Capitaneria di Porto
- 14.45 Sig.ra Esposito Barbara, Centro Assistenza Pesca di Legacoop Lega Pesca Liguria, ***Rifiuti e rigetti: azioni del GAC "IL MARE DELLE ALPI"*** e Dott.ssa Daniela Borriello Coldiretti Impresa Pesca, I pescatori liguri quali primi difensori di un mare pulito: progettualità future

15.00 Coffee break

- 15.15 Mirta Smodlaka Tanković, Rudjer Boškovic Institute - Center for Marine Research, Marelitt Croazia ***"Progetto pilota sulla rimozione dei rifiuti marini nel nord Adriatico"***
- 15.30 Dott. Andrea Molinari, presentazione Progetto Pilota Marine Litter Program, Olpa

15.45 Dibattito

16.30 Chiusura prima giornata

Seconda Giornata
Martedì 21 Ottobre 2014
Sala degli Specchi - Comune di Sanremo

Apertura Lavori

Interventi

- 9.30 Dott.ssa Gloria Manaratti, Regione Liguria, Settore Politiche agricole e della Pesca
- 9.45 Prof. Giorgio Bavestrello, Università degli studi di Genova ***Impatto dei rifiuti sulle comunità dei fondi rocciosi***
- 10.00 Dott. Paolo Pelusi, Consorzio Mediterraneo presentazione ***Progetto DeFishGear***

10.15 Coffee break

10.30 Tavolo di lavoro dove verranno esposte riflessioni e proposte per l'implementazione del Progetto pilota Olpa per gli aspetti operativi logistici e finanziari

12.30 Saluti





The project is funded by the European Commission (DG Environment) and carried out by Milieu Ltd and its partners ARCADIS, MEGAPESCA Ltd, IMARES, LJL, RSS Marine, Plymouth University, the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCU), EUCU Mediterranean Centre, the Baltic Environmental Forum and Mare Nostrum. The views expressed in this website do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission. For more information, please contact: marelitt@milieu.be

Annex 2: List of participants⁶

MARELITT Regional Workshop

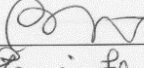
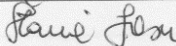
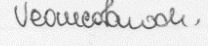
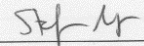






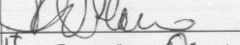
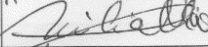

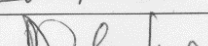


[San Remo, 20 & 21 Oct 2014]

Osservatorio Ligure
Pesca Ambiente

FOGLIO PRESENZE
Lunedì 20 Ottobre 2014

WorkShop Marelitt- Sala degli specchi - Comune di Sanremo.

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⁶ Not included in the list: two representatives from the Municipality of Sanremo (City Councillor of Environment Mr Nocita and City Councillor at State Property Mr Menozzi).



FOGLIO PRESENZE
Martedì 21 Ottobre 2014

WorkShop Marelitt- Sala degli specchi - Comune di Sanremo.

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