

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) and validated by the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2018-2020 (3 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 3 sites, 25 surveys

Calculation tools: LitterR package and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter reference list, version 2010

Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp>); mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded



Litter abundance

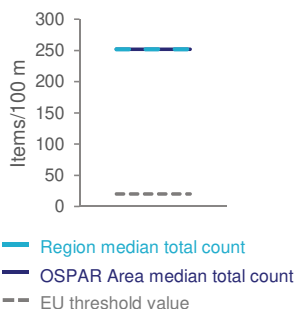
Abundance

9454 items collected

Median total count: 252 items/100 m

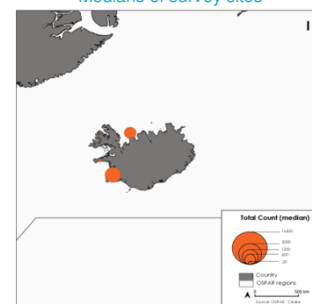
A reduction of the median total count is required to achieve EU threshold value of 20 litter items/100 m.

Position in OSPAR Area



Spatial distribution

Medians of survey sites



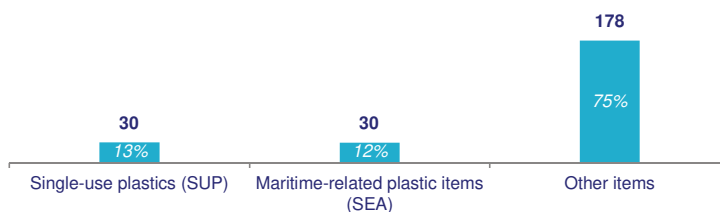
Litter composition

Material composition

Proportion (%); Median values (items/100 m)		
Artificial polym. material	97%	172
Rubber	1%	1
Cloth/textile	1%	1
Paper/cardboard	0%	0
Processed/worked wood	1%	1
Metal	0%	0
Glass/ceramics	0%	0
Undefined	0%	0

Use categories

Proportion (%); Medians values (items/100 m)



Top 10 of litter types

Proportion (%); Median number (item/100 m)

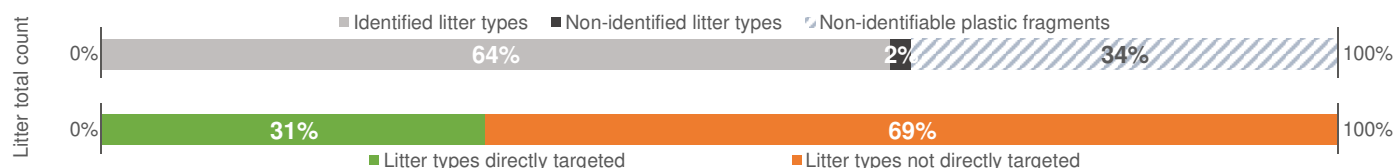
PLAST: Plastic/polystyrene pieces 2.5 - 50 cm [46]	68%	51
PLAST: Shotgun cartridges [43]	8%	6
PLAST: Caps/lids [15]	5%	4
PLAST: Strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm) [32]	5%	4
PLAST: Tangled nets/cord/rope and string [33]	5%	4
PLAST: Other plastic/polystyrene items [48]	2%	2
PLAST: Plastic/polystyrene pieces > 50 cm [47]	2%	2
PLAST: Ropes (diameter more than 1 cm) [31]	1%	1
PLAST: Drinks (bottles, containers and drums) [4]	1%	1
PLAST: Food containers incl. fast food containers [6]	1%	1

Litter types targeted by RAP measures

	Medians
Plastic bags 39 items collected	0 item/100 m
Hunting cartridges 228 items collected	6 items/100 m
Balloons incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc. 3 items collected	0 item/100 m
Cotton bud sticks 141 items collected	0 item/100 m
Cigarette filters 8 items collected	0 item/100 m

Assessment of survey list adequacy and measures coverage

Types of surveyed items



Part of items targeted by measures (ML RAP 2014-2020 and Directive EU 2019/904)

Litter types directly targeted: 31%
Litter types not directly targeted: 69%

Analysis performed by Cedre (France) for the OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group

Data source: OSPAR beach litter monitoring (<https://beachlitter.ospar.org/>)

Reporting period: 2015-2020 (6 years)

Number of sites and surveys: 2 sites, 29 surveys

Calculation tools: Litter package of R and Excel

Data format: OSPAR beach litter reference list, version 2010

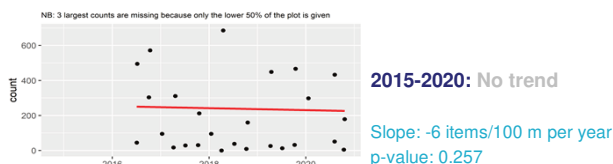
Assessment method: CEMP Guidelines (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp>); mesoplastic fragments (plastic fragments < 2.5 cm) are excluded

These trends are provided for information only due to a limited number of site.

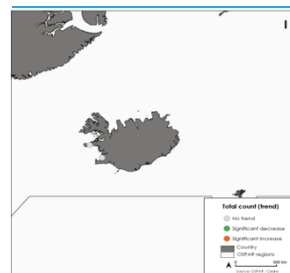


Trends in total count

Region level

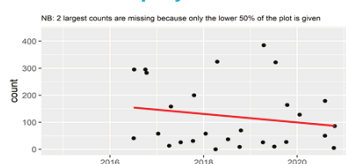


Site level



Trends for categories of interest

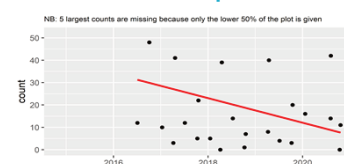
Artificial polymer materials



Single-use plastics



Maritime-related plastic items



Trends for litter types targeted by RAP measures

Plastic bags



Hunting cartridges



Balloons

incl. plastic valves, ribbons, strings etc.



Cotton bud sticks



Cigarette filters



● Count of litter items per survey
— Theil-Sen trend line

Key message

Beach litter is abundant on survey sites in the OSPAR Region Arctic Waters, with a median total count of 252 items/100 m. Plastic material is predominant, representing 97% of the beach litter items recorded, with a median of 172 items/100 m. SUP and SEA use categories appear to contribute to the pollution with medians of 30 items/100 m (13%) 30 items/100 m (12%) respectively. Plastic / polystyrene pieces (51 items/100 m; 68%) and hunting cartridges (6 items/100 m; 8%) are abundant litter types. At least 31% of the recorded items are directly targeted by OSPAR ML RAP 2014-2020 and the SUP Directive. Only 2% of the litter items are not identified, indicating that the OSPAR survey list adequately covers the litter items recorded. 34% of the litter items are non-identifiable plastic fragments, which cannot be used for the identification of sources of pollution.