



Marine Litter: “Searching for the usual suspects ...at my beach”

Beach cleaning and monitoring research protocol

Start the activity: Information required

- Beach location / GPS coordinates
- Number of people participating in the collection
- Time spent monitoring 100m
- Total weight collected
- Beach extension (approximate)
- Number of users within 100m (monitoring area)
- Month: Bathing season or not
- Dimension of intertidal in day
- Beach coverage: Areal / gravel; dunes: primary and secondary;
- Draining Type: temporary / permanent (river mouth, stream, rainwater / discharge points)
- Blue Flag: yes / no
- Number of dustbins on the beach
- Number of recycling bins
- Land uses (dominant): proximity to urban area; forest / pine forest; desert;
- Accessibility
- Infrastructures: Walkways
- Equipment built: dealer or not (cafes, bar)
- Photo Upload

2. Action



a) Identification of permanent reference points to ensure that the same area will be monitored.

b) The sampling unit is a fixed section of beach covering the whole area between the water's edge and the bottom of the beach (as exemplified in the image above).

The guideline developed by OSPAR establishes two sampling units:

- 100 m: for identification of all marine waste items (collecting the waste in the intertidal zone, that is between tides). Students should ensure the activity is performed during low tide;
- 1 km: to identify objects in general greater than 50 cm (students should identify, weigh and classify the type of waste collected)

c) Beaches can be monitored four times a year:

- Winter (mid-December- mid-January)
- Spring (April)
- Summer (mid-June-mid-July)
- Autumn (mid-September-mid-October)

Ideally, the chosen beach should be monitored on the same day of each year.



3. Identifying the materials

OSPAR ID	Material	Quantity
PLASTIC & POLYSTYRENE		
1	Multipack - 4/6	
2	Bags or fragments (eg shopping)	
3	Small bags (eg bags for frozen or otherwise) or fragments, unidentifiable consumer film	
4	Bottles and Containers: Beverages	
5	Bottles & Containers: Cleaning	
6	Bottles and Containers: Foods incl. Fast Food Containers	
7	Bottles & Containers: Cosmetics (eg, sun lotions, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant)	
13	Grids / Crates: eg Bread	
15	Capsules / Caps Rings / Caps	
16	Lighters	
17	Pens	
19	Bags of chips / Lollipop treats and sticks	
20	Beach toys / recreational items (eg paddles, kites or other beach toys and sporting goods)	
21	Cup / Cup	
22	Cutlery / Trays / Straws	
25	Gloves (typical of household use)	
113	Gloves (for industrial / professional use)	
26	Crab / Lobster Traps	
27	Octopus Traps / Artichokes	
31	Cables / Ropes (diameter > 1 cm)	
32	Cables / Ropes and Twine (diameter < 1 cm)	
115	Nets and pieces of nets < 50 cm	
33	Tangle of nets / twine	
34	Fishing Boxes	
36	Light tubes (tubes with liquid)	
37	Floats / Buoys	
39	Packaging strips and fragments thereof	
40	Industrial packaging, strips of plastic and fragments thereof	
43	Ammunition Cartridges	
45	Foam sponge (industrial origin, enclosures eg bottles, etc.)	
117	Plastic Fragments 0-2.5 cm	
46	Plastic fragments > 2.5 cm - 50 cm	
47	Plastic fragments > 50 cm	
48	Other articles made of plastic / polystyrene (specify in box for "others")	
400	Styrofoam fragments 0-2,5cm	
401	Styrofoam fragments > 2.5cm-50cm	
402	Styrofoam fragments > 50cm	
RUBBER		
49	Balloons (in addition to valves, tapes and twine, etc.)	



53	Other rubber parts (specify in "other" box)	
CLOTH		
54	Clothing	
57	Footwear	
59	Other textiles (specify in box for "other")	
PAPER CARD		
61	Greeting Card	
62	Other Cardboard Boxes / Tetrapack	
63	Packs of Cigarettes	
64	Cigarette Butts	
66	Newspapers & Magazines	
67	Other articles of paper (specify in box "other")	
WOOD		
68	Stopper	
69	Pallets	
74	Other woods <50 cm (specify in box for "others")	
METAL		
77	Bottle Caps	
78	Beverage Cans	
81	Sheet Metal	
82	Can of Food	
89	Other metal parts <50 cm (specify in "other" box)	
GLASS		
91	Bottles	
93	Other glass pieces (specify in "other" box)	
Clay & Ceramics		
94	Building material eg tile, tile	
96	Other ceramic / building parts (specify in "other" box)	
SANITARY ARTICLES		
98	Cotton Swabs	
99	Cleaning wipes / diapers / dressings	
100	Tampons and tampon applicators	
102	Other sanitary articles (specify in the box for "others")	
MEDICAL ARTICLES		
103	Containers / Tubes	
105	Other medical articles (cotton swabs, bandages, etc.) (specify in box for "others")	
"OTHERS"		