



REPORT LAUNCH 17 FEBRUARY 2021

STRONGER TOGETHER:
The role of regional instruments in
strengthening global governance
of marine plastic pollution



Norwegian Ministry
of Climate and Environment





Report overview



- ❖ Analysis of the role of regional instruments in addressing marine plastic litter
 - Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
 - Large Marine Ecosystem activities
 - Regional Economic Organisations
 - Regional Fisheries Bodies
- ❖ Case study on the Mediterranean
- ❖ Recommendations on strengthening regional efforts and linking them to a new global agreement



Method and Data Collection



Literature review



Online survey in July 2020



Online workshop in October 2020



Peer review in November 2020



Report



Contribution of regional instruments in addressing marine plastic pollution

- The regional level plays a **substantial role** in and engages in a **wide range of activities** relevant to addressing the issue of marine plastic litter

**CAPACITY
BUILDING**

RESEARCH

REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

MONITORING

INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION AMONGST STAKEHOLDERS

POLICY ADVISE

REGIONAL PROTOCOLS

REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND STRATEGIES

ADDRESSING LAND-BASED
SOURCES OF POLLUTION

REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT

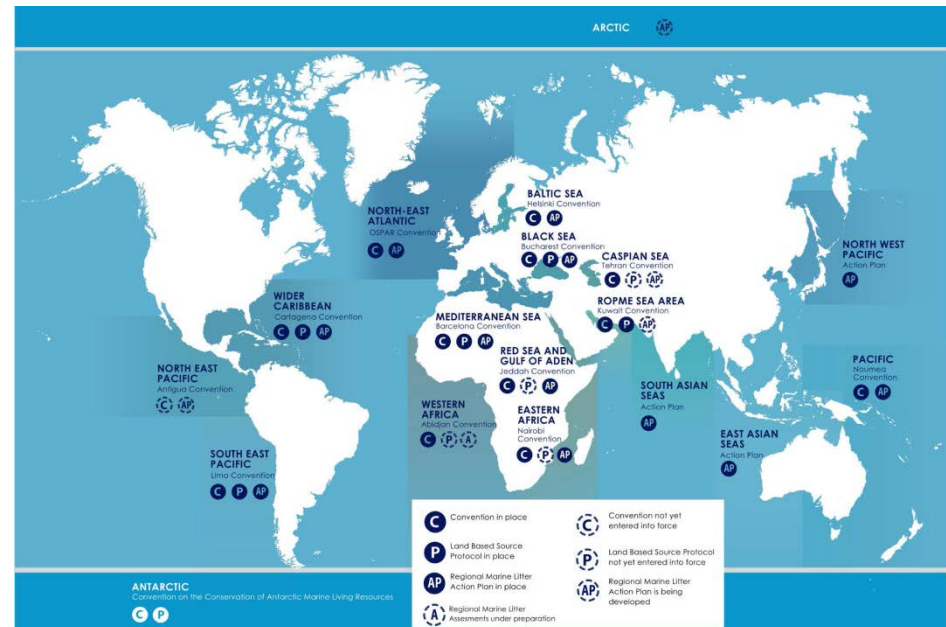
**LEGALLY-BINDING DIRECTIVES
AND REGULATIONS**



Contribution of regional instruments in addressing marine plastic pollution

Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

- Adopt **Regional Action Plans** specific to marine litter
- Provide **regional assessments** on the state of the environment
- **Monitor** marine litter within existing monitoring and assessment programmes
- Adopt legally-binding regional **protocols** addressing land-based sources of pollution





Contribution of regional instruments in addressing marine plastic pollution

Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) activities

- **Strategic Action Programmes** identify activities aimed at combating marine litter or marine debris
- Activities carried out within often provide a **starting point for more activities** which may continue after the end of the project implementation





Contribution of regional instruments in addressing marine plastic pollution

Regional Economic Organisations

- The EU addresses marine litter through a number of **regulations and legally-binding directives** aimed at promoting a circular economy approach
- ASEAN, APEC and UN ESCAP inter alia conduct **research** on marine litter and provide **policy advise, capacity building and technical assistance** to their member states

Regional Fisheries Bodies

- Introduce measures to minimise and retrieve **abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear**



Contribution of regional instruments in addressing marine plastic pollution

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ENGAGEMENT

Key messages

- Existing regional instruments are well-suited to **transfer global objectives and standards into regional agreements, roadmaps or action plans**
- The regional level can **complement and reinforce a new global agreement** on marine plastic pollution



Challenges





Recommendations for regional and global action



Recommendations for regional and global action

- Initial steps
- Further steps
- Possible contribution of a new global agreement



Recommendations for regional and global action

Initial steps (selection)

- Focus on **the development of regional strategies and action plans**
- **Initiate or expand activities** addressing marine plastic litter under existing regional organisations
- Set up **regional monitoring and assessment programs**
- Integrate **indicators specific to marine litter** in regional monitoring and assessment programs
- Use **innovate approaches** for data collection
- **Harmonize monitoring approaches** within and across regions
- Establish **regional platforms** which facilitate the **cooperation and coordination** of relevant stakeholders in the region



Recommendations for regional and global action

Further steps (selection)

- Focus on **enforcement** of existing measures
- Set up a system to **assess the effectiveness of measures**
- Set of clear, **regional thresholds and targets**



Recommendations for regional and global action

Possible contribution of a new global agreement (selection)

- Provide an **overarching, comprehensive strategy**
- Set **common objectives and minimum standards**
- Propose **shared indicators and assessment methodologies**
- Carry out **global reviews and assessments**
- Provide a **central forum** for coordinating activities addressing marine plastic pollution across relevant levels and sectors
- Facilitate the **sharing of best practices** and technologies
- Provide **capacity building, training and financial support**
- Establish of a **joint international database** and a related data management strategy



THANK YOU!

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