

Reducing marine litter for the sake of the environment and blue growth

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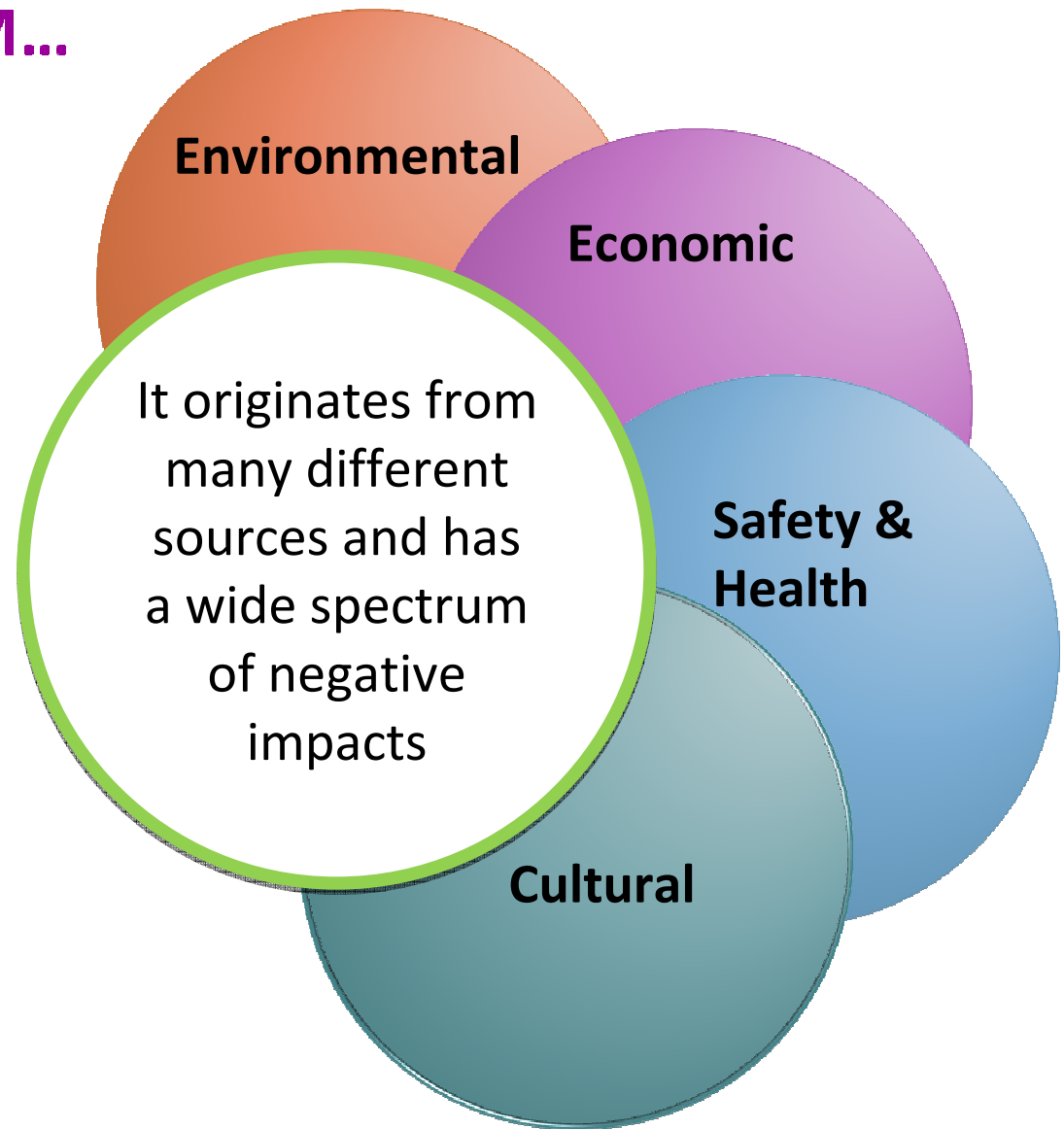
MARLISCO Regional Node Leader

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A prototype report, future directions and network of scientific contributors
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A COMPLEX AND MULTI-DIMENSIONAL PROBLEM...

rooted in our prevailing production and consumption patterns (the more we consume, the more waste we produce)



WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

- ✓ It is a threat to wildlife and ecosystems
- ✓ It is a threat to human health and livelihood
- ✓ It can lead to bio-accumulation of pollutants and toxins
- ✓ It travels long distances
- ✓ It is long lived
- ✓ It is difficult to track
- ✓ It is out of sight, out of reach



WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

80% from land-based activities

- ✓ inappropriate waste disposal at home
- ✓ inadequate waste management at all stages
- ✓ discharge of untreated municipal sewage
- ✓ irresponsibly discharged industrial waste
- ✓ tourism and recreational activities

20% from sea-based activities

- ✓ commercial fishing
- ✓ merchant and leisure shipping
- ✓ recreational shipping
- ✓ offshore oil and gas platforms
- ✓ fisheries/aquacultures

Marine litter has gained momentum...

- At EU level: the MSFD, the Waste Framework Directive, the Packaging Directive, the Landfill Directive, the Port Reception Facilities Directive, etc.
- At regional seas level: Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (to adopted soon)
- At international level: MARPOL Convention, London Convention, Honolulu Strategy, etc.
- The issue has gained further political momentum during the Rio+20 Summit, which committed to significantly reduce marine debris by 2025. *“We further commit to take action to, by 2025, based on collected scientific data, achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment”*

Are regional scientists, politicians collaborating on this?

- At EU level: MSFD Technical Working Group of Marine Litter
- At regional: special working group within the framework of the implementation of the ECAP by MAP.



Key message to be highlighted...

In order to achieve the establishment of a resource efficient and circular economy and reduce marine litter effects on the marine environment a coordinated approach is needed at all levels to implement all relevant policies and strategies, to raise awareness, support effective target setting and facilitate efforts for filling the knowledge gaps as well as to develop a deepened notion of co-responsibility across all sectors and stakeholders.

THERE ARE SOLUTIONS!



Regional needs...

Regulatory:

- International and regional coordination and cooperation among the various international organizations and actors.

Knowledge, management and infrastructure:

- Coordinate monitoring surveys on the quantities, flows and impacts of marine litter.
- Capacity building for all those involved in marine litter management

Improving culture and changing personal behavior:

- Enhancement and coordination of regional awareness raising campaigns with adequate duration and follow-ups.
- Regional educational programmes at different school levels.
- International recognition of regional initiatives/activities of Civil Society and private sector in dealing effectively with marine litter.

ENOUGH ABOUT DIRTY BEACHES & SEAS - WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Keep the benefits, without the debris

- After decades of training on throwing things away...



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