Marine litter – EU response

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Marine debris is everyone’s problem.
Prevention and mitigation (1)

- Policies and legal acts
- Data for policy making (beach, seafloor litter, microplastics)

WWF applauds European Commission plastics proposal
EMODnet seafloor litter data
MSFD region aggregated distribution of litter categories (2011-2017)*

*Different sampling devices were used in the two regions (North East Atlantic Ocean and Baltic Sea). GOV trawl gear type is the most used in the North East Atlantic Ocean
(2) Building an engaged R&I community

- EMFF, H2020, Life, Interreg etc
  - Policy analysis (Eunomia study)
  - Feasibility of technologies (Litterdrone project)
  - Research (CleanSea, Marelitt projects)
  - Collecting best practices e.g. Switchmed, Marlisco
PLASTICS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? WHERE DO THEY GO?

TOTAL PLASTIC ENTERING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
12.2 Million tonnes per annum

BEACHES
2,000kg/ km² (5% of total)

OCEAN SURFACE
18kg/ km² (1% of total)*

SEA FLOOR
70kg/ km² (94% of total)

*Peak concentration found in North Pacific gyre. Average concentration globally is <1kg per km²
3) Regional initiatives

- Atlantic action plan, Common maritime agenda for the Black Sea etc
- Marine litter removal – fishing for litter
- Coastal clean-up initiatives
4) Behaviour change & awareness raising

- Education initiatives – Blue schools
- Awareness raising communication campaigns
- EU beach clean up initiative

5) International initiatives

WE NEED A WAVE OF CHANGE.
5) International initiatives

5 PLASTIC GYRES
Thank You!