

PRESS KIT



INDICator Impact Turtle

*Implementation Of The Indicator Of Marine Litter On Sea Turtles And Biota In
Regional Sea Conventions And Marine Strategy Framework Directive Areas*

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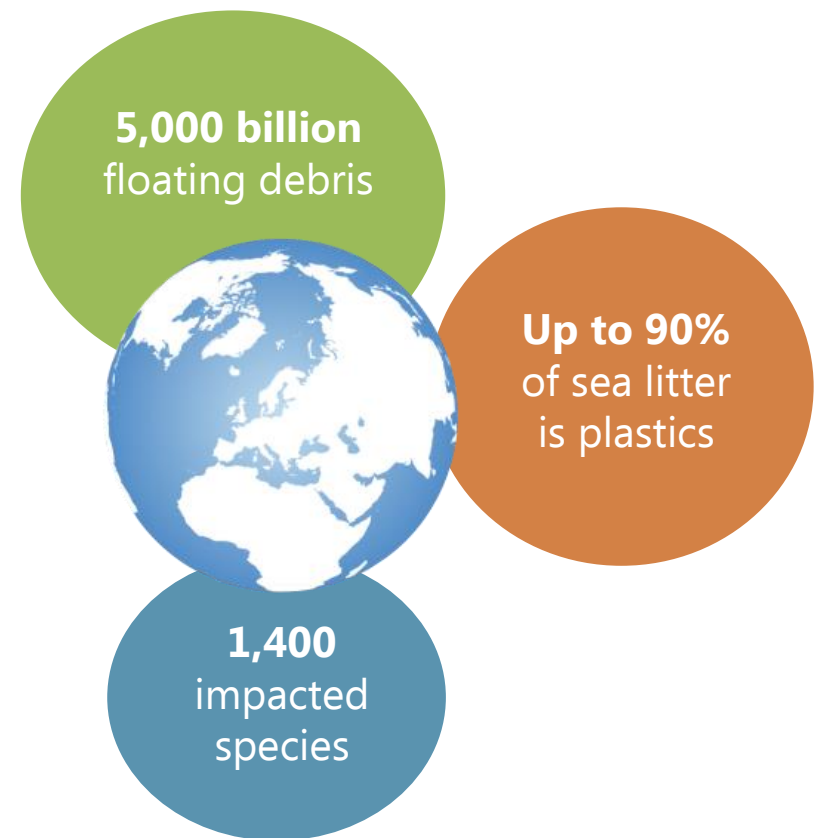
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CONTEXT - LITTER IN MARINE ENVIRONMENT

World seas and oceans are **polluted by marine debris**, which have **negative impact** on marine organisms.

Litter in marine environment:

- **15%** on the coast
- **70%** on sea floor
- **15%** floating



CONTEXT - LITTER IMPACT ON MARINE ORGANISMS

Two main threats for marine organisms

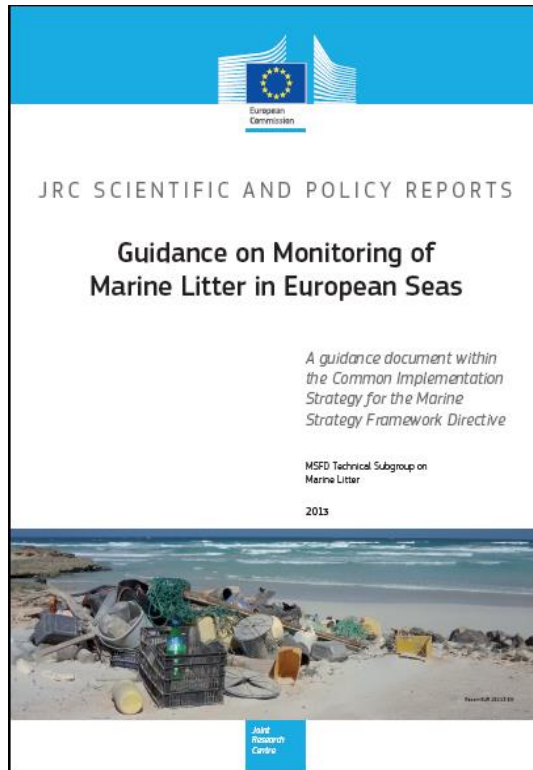
Entanglement



Ingestion



CONTEXT – EUROPEAN POLICIES



Europe and regional sea conventions undertake management measures in order **to improve the status of the seas**, and restore them.

The **European Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (MSFD) aims to achieve the **Good Environmental Status** of marine waters **by 2020**. Two of its indicators concern the impact of **marine litter**.

Marine organisms can help the managers to **evaluate the efficiency of restoration measures** ; some of them, like sea turtles, play the role of « **indicator species** ».

DESCRIPTION OF INDICIT - OBJECTIVES

INDICIT is a **collaborative 2-year project** supported by the **European Commission**.

Objectives:

- **develop** a **common approach** for monitoring the **marine debris ingestion** by sea turtles.
- **assess** whether **other species** could be **useful indicators**, in particular for entanglement and micro-debris ingestion.

INDICIT focuses on 3 types of litter impact indicators:



1

Litter ingestion
by sea turtle



2

Micro-litter ingestion by
sea turtle and fish



3

Entanglement in debris
(all fauna)



DESCRIPTION OF INDICIT – ACTIONS

INDICIT will contribute to recover the **Good Environmental Status of our oceans** through :



developing an international perennial network which will collect and exchange key information.



studying the impact of marine litter on marine organisms.



testing existing, and proposing new indicators for monitoring the impacts of litter on marine fauna.



providing training and standardized tools to staff involved in the monitoring of debris impacts.

DESCRIPTION OF INDICIT – WORK AREA

INDICIT partners are scientific institutes from **5 European countries** (France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece) and **2 non-European Mediterranean countries** (Turkey, Tunisia).

INDICIT is working from basin to coastal areas in the Atlantic, Northern Seas and Mediterranean marine sub-regions concerned by Regional Sea Conventions (RSC) and European Marine Waters.



INDICIT project area

INDICIT CONSORTIUM

The INDICIT consortium is formed of scientific institutes from **5 European countries** (France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece) and **2 non-European Mediterranean countries** (Turkey, Tunisia). The partners are supported by a consultative committee.



INDICIT PARTNERS



Centre National de Recherche Scientifique - *Montpellier, France*
> **Coordinator of the project and leader of the scientific knowledge**

[More information](#)



Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle - *Paris, France*
> **Leader of Communication and Dissemination**

[More information](#)



University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria – *Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain*
> **Leader of the Implementation of the indicator of Litter ingestion in the RSC OSPAR/ Macaronesia**

[More information](#)



Institute for Environmental Protection and Research – *Roma, Italy*
> **Leader of the Implementation of the indicator of Litter ingestion in the UNEP/MAP - ICAP**

[More information](#)



Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer– *Tunis, Tunisia*

[More information](#)

INDICIT PARTNERS



Research and Technology Agency of the Regional Secretariat for Sea, Science and Technology – *Ponta Delgada, Portugal*

[More information](#)



Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – *Napoli, Italy*

[More information](#)



Sea Turtle Rescue Center (DEKAMER) – *Dalyan, Mugla-Turkey*

[More information](#)



Hellenic Centre for Marine Research – *Anavyssos, Greece*

[More information](#)



University of Valencia – *Valencia, Spain*

[More information](#)

INDICIT collaborators



More than 20 Rescue centres in Atlantic and Mediterranean areas



More than 15 Stranding networks



Other institutions involved:
Research laboratories, Veterinarian laboratories, fishermen, coast guards, citizen volunteers, etc.

All trained to collect data in a harmonized way



INDICIT FIRST RESULTS – *last update September 2018*

A very massive litter impact on sea turtles

- >1000 turtles dead and alive analyzed in both MED + ATL
- ~60% had ingested litter;
- Average per country between ~25 and 85%; can reach 100% locally.
- Dry mass of max 1 gram.

The debris ingested by turtles are representative of litter in the environment

- Essentially white, transparent and black plastics
- Plastic bags, plastic fragments, pieces of net and fishing lines, everyday use plastics (corks, cups, candy and cake packaging, fragments of balloon...)

Why turtles do they eat plastics?

- More knowledge needed to answer this question. Confound with preys (shape, odor...)? Out of curiosity? Inadvertently (debris entangled in food)?

A probable high impact on individual health

- Number, shape and structure of debris can have major impacts on digestion and body condition,
- Rarely the direct cause of death, but certainly weaken individuals, probably preventing them to feed, move, reproduce and escape dangers normally

INDICIT DISSEMINATION MEETING

The partners and the External Advisory Board of the INDICIT project (<https://indicit-europa.eu/>) are glad to invite you to the:

INDICIT Dissemination Meeting

INDICIT is a collaborative 2-year project supported by the European Commission. Gathering stakeholders from 7 countries, it aims to:

- develop a common approach for monitoring the marine debris ingestion by sea turtles
- assess whether other species could be useful indicators.

INDICIT actions



develop an international perennial network which will exchange key information



study the impact of marine litter on marine organisms



test existing, and propose new indicators for monitoring the impacts of litter on marine fauna



provide training and standardized tools to stakeholders involved in the monitoring of debris impacts

This meeting is a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to:

- get detailed information about the set of standardized tools and protocols for monitoring the impacts of litter on marine fauna developed by INDICIT
- Discuss future prospects of the monitoring of the marine debris with policy makers



Practical information

Tuesday, December 4, 2018
9.30 a.m. – 17.30 p.m.

Hotel Divani-Acropolis
Parthenonos 19 str.
Athens, Greece

A livestreaming will also be available, more info is coming soon

RESOURCES & CONTACTS

- **A lot of information about INDICIT and the latest updates of the project are available on INDICIT website:**
<http://indicit-europa.eu>
- **For pictures needs, a DROPBOX is available with a choice of pictures illustrating the marine litter impacts on marine fauna and INDICIT work**
Link : <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/k2cdd83odtazo70/AAAAHBKGKX0zOzDAmfuMkPP-a?dl=0>

CONTACTS

- For any question or request regarding the communication of INDICIT, please contact : communication@indicit-europa.eu
- For any question related to the tools developed by the project, please contact : coordination@indicit-europa.eu