



Marine Litter Issues Overview

This month, WFO is introducing its new marine litter issues overview, tracking the latest news and developments pertaining to the issue. We'd be delighted to receive your feedback as well as any input for next month's issue!

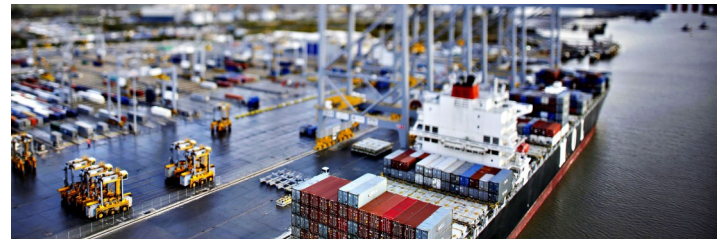


Study finds targeting coasts to be most effective way to clean our oceans

Scientists from Imperial College London announced this month that the most effective way to clean up marine litter is to place litter collectors and barriers along coasts, that is, at their source. Although the Great Pacific garbage patch has gained international attention these past few years, a new study by Imperial College suggests that targeting the patch would not efficiently clean the oceans. The analysis led by Dr. Erik van Sebille of Imperial's Grantham Institute used a model of ocean movements to foresee the effect of placing litter collectors along the coasts of China and the Indonesian islands over a period of ten years. The study found that such an initiative would remove 31% of microplastics whereas only 17% would be cleared by collectors placed in the gyres in the middle of the oceans. Indeed, stopping litter from entering the oceans at the coasts ultimately prevents plastic waste from doing any harm to the marine environment.

Read the study [here](#).

Source: [Imperial College](#)



European shipowners call for better port reception facilities for waste management

Earlier this month, the European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA) released a position paper calling on more pragmatic and fair port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues. The paper was made in response to the European Commission's revision of the 2000 EU Port Reception Facilities (PRF) Directive. Its aim is to reduce such waste from entering the seas but the reality of the situation is that insufficient ports facilities are not enabling proper waste management.

ECSA has stated that there is a lack of adequate facilities in EU ports to deal with such waste. EU shipowners have furthermore called for a more efficient method of monitoring and enforcing the PRF Directive. Certain fees charged by some ports are not transparent, and, in some cases, unfair. Shipowners understand the importance of such directives for the marine environment but require the proper infrastructure to meet demands.

Read ECSA's position paper [here](#).

Source: [ECSA](#)



Thousands of mysterious pink bottles wash up on Cornwall beaches

This month, thousands of mysterious pink plastic bottles have washed up on the beaches of Cornwall, England, in particular on the Poldhu Cove on the Lizard Peninsula. The bottles appeared on January 3rd and volunteers of the National Trust have been since helping to collect the bottles.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency said: "While it is fact that the MV Blue Ocean lost a container containing bottles of 'Vanish', there is no currently available evidence that the bottles washed up on the Cornish coast are from this container; all evidence is currently circumstantial." Although most bottles appear to be sealed, the Cornwall Wildlife Trust is "highly concerned" about their impact on the marine environment.

Almost 20 years ago, a wave hit a carrier ship knocking Lego containers into the sea off Cornwall. To this day locals still find Lego pieces along the coasts of Cornwall.

Sources: [BBC](#) and [takepart](#)



Sucking up ocean litter one Seabin at a time

On January 12th, the Indiegogo campaign for the Seabin Project closed but not without having exceeded its funding objective at 115%.

Andrew Turton and Pete Ceglinski (pictured right) are the founders of the Seabin Project and the designers of an automated rubbish bin that catches litter. The bins would be strategically set up in marinas, ports and yacht clubs - sheltered from heavy storms and in the presence of heavy pollution.

The Seabin would be situated on the surface of the water. Water is sucked into the Seabin, bringing with any floating debris to be stored in the bin's "catch bag". Meanwhile the water flows through a pump and back into its environment.

For detailed information and a video about the Seabin Project, view their Indiegogo page and video [here](#).





Microbeads will be obsolete in the US by 2017

The United States recently issued a ban on soaps, toothpastes, bodywashes and other beauty products that contain microbeads.

Used as scrubbing agents in cleansing products, the microbeads are too small to be filtered by American wastewater treatment plants and thus flow directly into rivers, lakes and seas – unsurprisingly harmful to the marine environment.

Plastic microbeads can be replaced by natural exfoliators in beauty products. The new bill will require manufacturers to eliminate microbeads from their products by 2017.

Sources: [Newsweek](#) and [Business Insider](#)

NGOs welcome new EU scheme to fight illegal fishing

On January 21st, a number of NGOs welcomed the European Commission's new fishing vessel numbering scheme which aims to curb illegal fishing.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) assigns unique numbers to vessels and the EU has now made it mandatory for such numbers to be applied to fishing vessels as well, specifically those of more than 24 meters long that fish in EU waters and EU vessels above 15 meters that fish overseas. Such numbers remain with the vessels their entire lives, from construction to disposal.

While welcoming the reform, NGOs such as the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), Oceana and WWF however also call for a global record of fishing vessels to be made.

Read more from the European Commission [here](#).

Sources: [Environmental Justice Foundation](#) (EJF), [Oceana](#) and [WWF](#)



The Buzz

Envisioning an economy where plastic never becomes waste

The recent report by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with the World Economic Forum: *The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics* released its findings, including the estimation that there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050. Furthermore, 95% of plastics packaging material becomes after a single use, representing a loss of \$80 - \$120 billion annually to the economy.

The report also highlighted the shortcomings of the current plastics industry value chain and how it results in a negative impact on the marine environment. The report also introduces the concept of a new plastic economy which would incorporate the principles of the circular economy to the entire plastics industry.

Read the full report [here](#).

Source: [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)

FIGURE 6: AMBITIONS OF THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY

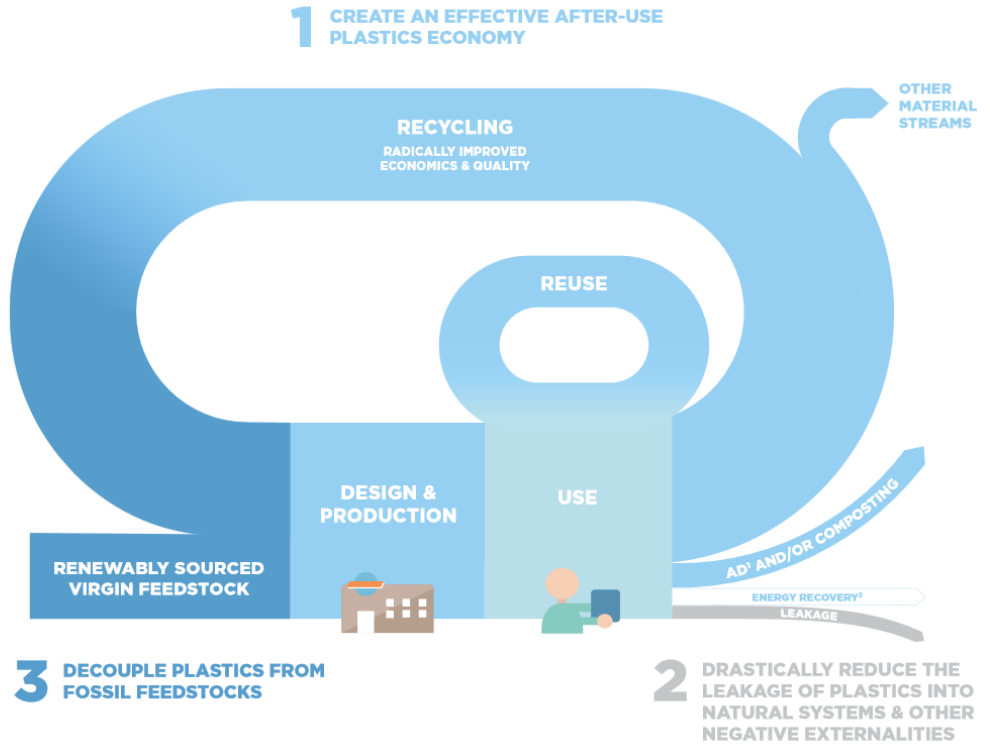


FIGURE 7: OUTLINE OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

