

Task Group Management

**TG-M 19-2**

8th to 9th of October 2019

Rømø, Denmark

**Agenda Item:** 5.7

**Subject: Marine Litter**

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**Submitted by:** Netherlands

At last TG-M in April 2019 the proposal was endorsed that the Netherlands would make a first inventory on marine litter in the three countries. In WSB 29 also the relation with the OPteam PH was discussed.

Denmark has made a first inventory on activities going on in Denmark regarding Marine Litter, see text below.

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to discuss and further develop the document in preparation of WSB 30 and take the Danish overview as a concept for a format for an overview regarding the German and Dutch situation .

Litter in the Danish Oceans

1. **Policy**

The ministry of Environment and food protection Denmark wants to move Denmark towards more recycle less waste and litter production. The Municipalities plays an important role in contributing and reaching the goal. The municipalities are in charge of the practical part concerning cleaning the beaches, and they can contribute in the ways that are best suited for them, as long as the goal is met. With guidance and an appropriation to keep the beaches clean from the government, they can do it in ways suited best for each municipality. Many organizations are collaborating with the policymakers and the municipalities. The colla-borators are; Havmiljøvogterne, Dansk Sejlunion, Danmarks Fiskeriforening PO, Dansk Sportsdykker Forbund, Danmarks Amatørfiskerforening, Hold Danmark Rent, Danmarks Sportsfiskerforbund, Dansk Tursejlere and KIMO International.

1. **Monitoring**

The beaches in Denmark are visited very well during summer, and municipalities are in charge of checking and replacing the garbage bins on the beaches and keeping the surroundings clean. Through winter, many storms are raging and many litters’ ends on land. Because of the harsh weather, the beaches will not be cleaned before spring, when the storms has passed. A lot of cleaning is done throughout springtime. In areas with wide flat beaches, machinery is used to collect litter. In areas with dikes and slopes, the collecting of litter is done manually by hand. The municipalities has a crew collecting litter, but many organizations and volunteers are helping cleaning the beaches as well. The statistics estimates 1.000 ton of litter are collected on the beaches along the west coast every year.

* 1. **KIMO Denmark** is an international environmental organization for local authorities and municipalities with beaches along coastal areas. The organization has a broad international and nationally network and they cooperate with NGOs, national and international authorities and research institutions. Through KIMO the Danish municipalities get guidance and help in case a environmental catastrophe occur, and KIMO helps the affected municipalities in presenting a case to the authorities and politicians for quicker action.

1. **Beach clean-up activities**

Many different organizations organize days or activities where the seas, beaches and ports are cleaned, and litter is collected. It can be a day where they encourage people to come and collect litter at the beaches, school classes go out and collect litter from the beaches and learn, what can be recycled. Some use it in art class and so on. Some of the organizations organizing activities are; Havmiljøvogterne, Danmarks Amatørfiskerforening, Hold Danmark Rent og Sportsdykker Forbund.

* 1. **Marine environment patroller**: are often yachtsmen, anglers, surfers, divers and rowers, who are active around or on the sea. A number of Danish amateur aviators also keep an eye on the sea from the air. Defense Command Denmark monitors ships from the time they sail into Danish, until they leave again. Planes, ships, coastal radar and AIS (Automatic Identification Systems) carry out the surveillance. The Naval Home Guard and commercial sailors, who have a duty to report their observations, support them. (<http://en.xn--havmiljvogter-hnb.dk/>)

1. **Prevent**

The plastic industry is trying to reduce their release of plastic to nature and the seas. They do so by implementing stricter rules at the workplace so less plastic ends up in nature.

* 1. **Operation Clean Sweep**: aims to combat waste of plastic granules from production companies to the environment. It comes with ways to avoid plastic being a source of pollution and the solution is a part of the overall “Marine Litter Solutions”, started by industry of association for plastic companies around the world to contribute to solving the world’s marine environment problems. Marine Litter Solutions has been signed by 68 68 organizations from 35 countries and works for a cleaner environment, increased recycling, local collection and information campaigns on the consequences of plastic pollution of the sea. <https://plast.dk/operation-clean-sweep-undgaa-plastraavarer-ender-havet/>.
  2. **Project plastic free oceans**: is a partnership between the plastic industry, plastic change (NGO) and the Ecological Council (NGO). Over DKK 11 million is allocated to four different projects that will contribute to solutions to problems with plastic in the seas. <https://plast.dk/projekt-plastfrit-hav-plastindustrien-ngoer-faelles-kamp-plast-havet/>

1. **Communication / Education**

The ministry of environment and food protection made a campaign in 2018 about litter in the oceans to inform people about the consequences regarding litter. Different organizations either do similar information with the public, through campaign, educating schoolchildren or involve volunteers. Some of them are described below:

* 1. **The Ministry of Environment and food protection** in 2018 performed a campaign against waste and litter in the oceans surrounding Denmark. The campaign is called “Together for an ocean without litter” and approached ‘us whom use the oceans, beaches and harbors must stand together – and work together – for an ocean without litter’. The campaign works together with different organizations, NGOs, people whom walks, and uses the beaches. The campaign was used to make people aware of the negative consequences of litter in the oceans, and give practical advice to inform people alternatives, to avoid their waster to end up in the oceans. <https://mst.dk/natur-vand/vandmiljoe/havet/havmiljoe/sammen-om-et-hav-uden-affald/>.
  2. **Keep Denmark Clean** is an organization that informs the Danish people what to do with their waste. They have a sub-group called “Strandet” who collect waste and litter along the west coast of Jutland, and they go further and recycle the collected litter. Throughout sharing their knowledge, tests and innovative product development they wish to inform that litter do not belong in nature and the seas, but is a resource, which can and must be recycled. <https://www.strandet.io/> , <https://www.holddanmarkrent.dk/article/5020-Strandet-affald-faar-nyt-liv>.
  3. Danish amateur anglers: small group of anglers who corporates with schools and kindergartens and inform the children about the sea and wildlife there. In connection with this, they also talk with the children about litter and the consequences it has on wildlife. <http://danskefritidsfiskere.dk/?page_id=792>.