onvention for the rotection of the arine nvironment of the orth ast tlantic

egional ction lan for revention and anagement of arine itter in the orth ast tlantic

#### ummary

inisters had highlighted in the importance of the problem of marine litter stating that in many areas of the orth ast tlantic levels of litter were unacceptable trategy for the protection of the arine nvironment of the orth ast tlantic for the years set out an objective to

and quantities do not cause harm to the marine environment and the egional ction lan subsequently adopted in support the marine debris reduction objectives under oal of

egional ction lan sets out the policy context fo describes the various types of actions that is working on to combat the problem over the coming years he egional ction lan is set out in four sections

Section I sets the objectives the geographical scope principles and approaches that should frame implementation

Section II presents the actions to be implemented he actions have been grouped in four themes the reduction of litter from sea based sources and the reduction of litter from land based sources

the removal of existing litter from the marine environment and education and outreach on the topic of marine litter

Section III describes the necessary monitoring and assessment process

Section IV outlines how the plan will be implemented and followed up by nnexes to the plan set out the detail of the individual measure development and adoption process as well as reporting formats for he mplementation plan is being updated annually based upon progress

urrent implementation activity is also linked to the arine trategy ramework irective with

ontracting arties who are ember tates

ee http www ospar org work areas eiha marine litter regional action plan

# ction on arine itter he egional ction lan for revention and anagement of arine itter in the orth ast tlantic

inisters noted in that quantities of litter in many areas of the orth ast tlantic were unacceptable and that reduction measures should be developed towards reduction targets for he objective with regard to marine litter as laid down in the trategy for the protection of the arine nvironment of the orth ast tlantic for the years the maritime area to levels where properties and quantities do not cause harm to the marine environment egional ction lan subsequently adopted in support global commitments resolutions and now the io es oal

## greement see http www ospar org work areas eiha marine litter regional action plan addresses marine litter defined as any solid material which has been deliberately discarded or unintentionally lost on beaches and on shores or at sea including materials transported into marine environment from land by rivers drainage or sewage systems or winds t includes any persistent manufactured or processed solid material originating from different sea and land based sources ne focus of the action is on plastics given these are the predominant material in marine litter

is addressing marine litter not just as an aesthetic problem but one that incurs socioeconomic costs threatens human health and safety and impacts on marine organisms t is broadly documented that entanglement in or ingestion of marine litter can have negative consequences on the physical condition of marine animals and even lead to death ngestion of micro plastics is also of concern as it may provide a pathway for transport of harmful chemicals into the food web dditionally marine litter is known to damage and degrade habitats e g in terms of smothering and to be a possible vector for the transfer of alien species

he egional ction lan aims to deliver the following elements

- a a focus on specific sources or items of marine litter that are of most concern in each region or the maritime area as a whole
- b the development of regional measures taking into account the socioeconomic aspects including cost effectiveness for reducing the input of marine litter from sea based and land based sources and for removing litter from the marine environment
- c regionally coordinated reduction operational targets including those linked to sources taking into account the targets submitted by ember tate ontracting arties to the uropean ommission
- d monitoring and necessary arrangements required to assess progress towards reaching the targets
- e cooperation with other relevant regional and international organisations including egional eas

he egional ction lan has been adopted by ontracting arties as an ther greement It applies to the whole maritime area and is designed as a flexible tool providing a set of actions to address marine litter he key principles applied are the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle he lan contains actions requiring collective activity within the framework of the

ommission through where applicable measures i e ecisions or ecommendations and or other agreements such as guidelines ther actions are also listed in the Ian for consideration by ontracting arties in their national regional cooperation third category of actions are those that fall under the competence of other international organisations and competent authorities

Objectives and role

he main objectives of the are to

revent and reduce marine litter pollution in the orth ast tlantic and its impact on marine organisms habitats public health and safety and reduce the socioeconomic costs it causes

emove litter from the marine environment where practical and feasible

nhance knowledge and awareness on marine litter

upport ontracting arties in the development implementation and coordination of their programmes for litter reduction including those for the implementation of the arine trategy ramework irective

evelop management approaches to marine litter that are consistent with accepted international approaches

he role of the is to

oordinate work to improve the evidence base on the impacts of litter on the marine environment

stablish a range of measures and actions identifying gaps and opportunities where can add value through its marine focus

e a framework for ontracting arties to identify added value for a regional approach

romote reporting by ontracting arties to arine trategy ramework irective where relevant

he egional ction lan on arine itter is being implemented in close cooperation with other relevant regional and global organisations and initiatives including and other egional eas onventions the nternational aritime rganisation the onvention on iological iversity the uropean nion isheries egional dvisory ouncils orth ast tlantic isheries ommission and iver and iver asin ommissions artnerships with the private sector and with non governmental organisations are also a part of the working approach

### hemes and ctions

he egional ction lan does not

of measures ecommendations ecisions or other agreements including guidelines adopted within the framework of the onvention owever the mplementation lan is being updated on a regular basis to show progress delivered by the assigned country leads following the accepted procedure

#### OSPAR Collective Actions

ontracting arties acting collectively within the framework of the ommission are developing and implementing the actions outlined below n addition regionally coordinated reduction operational targets are being developed

heme ctions to combat sea based sources of marine litter

ort reception facilities ffective mplementation nforcement of international legislation regulation ncentives for responsible behaviour disincentives for littering evelop best practice in relation to fishing industry ines for waste disposal offences at sea heme ctions to combat land based sources of arine itter mproved waste prevention and management eduction of sewage and storm water related waste ncentives for responsible behaviour isincentives for littering limination change or adaptation of products for environmental benefits evelopment of sustainable packaging ero pellet loss

heme emoval ction pplication of ishing for itter activities leaning environmental compartments and keeping them clean eduction of abandoned lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear

heme ducation and outreach ducation utreach

**Contracting Party Actions** 

ontracting arties are considering the following actions

heme ctions to combat sea based sources of marine litter

nforcement of international legislation regulation regarding all sectors ncentives for responsible behaviour disincentives for littering

### heme easures to combat land based sources

mproved waste prevention and management

heme emoval measures

pplication of ishing for itter activities eduction of abandoned lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear

heme ducation and outreach