



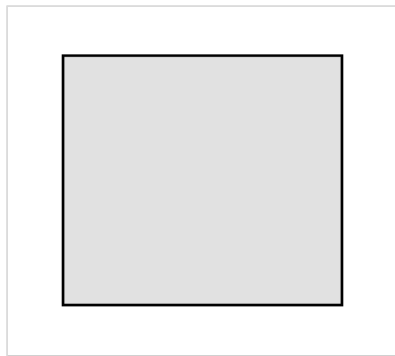
Assessment of marine litter in all four regional seas, 2010-2021

This is the metadata for the data showing the results of a preliminary classification and identification of 'non-problem areas' and 'potential problem areas' with respect to marine litter in Europe's Seas, using the prototype Marine Litter Assessment Tool (MALT), a multi-metric indicator-based status assessment tool. Please see the European Topic Centre (ETC) report "Marine Litter in Europe - An integrated assessment from source to sea" (2022).

Simple

Identification info

Date (Creation)	2022-11-21															
Date (Publication)	2022-12-12															
Edition	01.00															
Citation identifier	eea_v_3035_100_k_marine-litter_p_2010-2021_v01_r00															
Point of contact	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Organisation</th><th>Individual</th><th>Electronic mail address</th><th>Website</th><th>Role</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>European Environment Agency</td><td></td><td>sdi@eea.europa.eu</td><td>http://www.eea.europa.eu</td><td>Point of contact</td></tr><tr><td>European Environment Agency</td><td></td><td>sdi@eea.europa.eu</td><td></td><td>Custodian</td></tr></tbody></table>	Organisation	Individual	Electronic mail address	Website	Role	European Environment Agency		sdi@eea.europa.eu	http://www.eea.europa.eu	Point of contact	European Environment Agency		sdi@eea.europa.eu		Custodian
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European Environment Agency		sdi@eea.europa.eu	http://www.eea.europa.eu	Point of contact												
European Environment Agency		sdi@eea.europa.eu		Custodian												
Spatial representation type	Vector															
Spatial resolution																
Spatial resolution	100 km															
Topic category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Environment															
Extent																



Temporal extent

Time period	2010-01-01 2021-12-31
Extent	
Maintenance and update frequency	Not planned
GEMET - INSPIRE themes, version 1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oceanographic geographical features Hydrography
GEMET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water
Continents, countries, sea regions of the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Sea Baltic Sea Mediterranean Sea Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast
Spatial scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European
EEA Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 3.1.12
EEA topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water

Resource constraints

Access constraints	Other restrictions
Other constraints	no limitations to public access

Resource constraints

Use constraints	Other restrictions
Other constraints	License CC-BY 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Copyright holder: European Environment Agency (EEA).
Language	English

Distribution Information

Distribution format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDB Geopackage
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OnLine resource	https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/webdav/datastore/public/eea_v_3035_100_k_marine-litter_p_2010-2021_v01_r00/
OnLine resource	Direct download
OnLine resource	https://water.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/services/MarineLitter/MALT_Status/MapServer/WMServer?request=GetCapabilities&service=WMS
OnLine resource	Static map
OnLine resource	https://water.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/rest/services/MarineLitter/MALT_Status/MapServer

Data quality info

Hierarchy level	Dataset
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Report

Result

Title	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 of 23 November 2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services
Date (Publication)	2010-12-08
Explanation	See the referenced specification

Resource lineage

Statement	<p>This datalayer gives the results of the integrated assessment of marine litter in Europe's seas, using the MALT tool to provisionally identify 'non-problem areas' and 'potential problem areas'. Please see ETC report "Marine Litter in Europe - An integrated assessment from source to sea" (2022) for a full explanation of the assessment method and data used. As described in the report, the tool uses observation data "from multiple sources publicly accessible in EMODnet: a) the seafloor litter data comprise 20551 surveys at 20021 sites in 22 countries, taken in the period 2010-2021. The surveys included in the dataset were done by their respective marine litter projects, which included MEDITS, EVHOE, Baltic International Trawl Survey, DeFishGear, Demersal Young Fish Survey, IBTS, North Sea Beam Trawl Survey, and PROMARE; b) the European beach litter data were collected by more than 72 originators (institutions and projects). The MLW data contained observations from 2013 to 2021, covering 1424 individual beaches whilst the OSPAR data covered 124 beaches from 2012 to 2018. EMODnet data contained observations from 2010 to 2020 at 1225 beaches; c) floating microlitter data came from 839 trawls conducted on 60 cruises between 2011 and 2020. "</p> <p>A broad summary of the methodology is in the European Topic Centre (ETC) report "Marine Litter in Europe - An integrated assessment from source to sea" (2022). "5.4. Indicator-based assessment on the status of marine litter pollution". It is long, would you like me to use it here or is it fine if we provide a link? Details on the MALT methodology is also provided in Annex 5 and 6 of the ETC report. I picked up the most relevant part from 5.4 for you:</p> <p>Although the MALT tool is designed to integrate multiple indicators, this preliminary assessment is based on the use of three indicators: (i) the count of beach litter items per 100 m; (ii) the count of seafloor litter items per km²; and (iii) the count of floating microlitter particles per m³ in surface water samples. It is preferable to apply indicators for which a published threshold value exists. In the case of the beach litter, the European threshold value defined by the TGML of 20 items per 100 m (van Loon et al., 2019) is used. For the seafloor litter count, no officially approved threshold values were found. As such, the 15th percentile of the counts of seafloor litter in the assessment dataset is applied (corresponding to 15.4 items/km²). This method is therefore analogous to the method used to derive the beach litter threshold. An alternative, less restrictive threshold value (230 items /km²) is proposed by UNEP (2016) and tested in Malta (Borja et al. 2021). The effect of these alternative threshold values on the MALT assessment results, both on the seafloor litter indicator as well as the overall status are shown in Annex 6. For floating microlitter, a tentative threshold value of 10 items per m³ was applied.</p> <p>The litter counts corresponding to the minimum limit on the Ecological Quality Ratio (EQR) scale (corresponding to EQR = 0.0) were selected for each indicator by taking the 99th percentiles of all the litter counts available. It should be noted that altering this limit will affect the distribution of results between the "problem" classes ("Moderate", "Poor" and "Bad") but does not affect the overall fraction of results assessed to be "problem" or "non-problem" areas, since this is determined by the Good/Moderate threshold value."</p>
Hierarchy level	Dataset

Source

- [EEA marine assessment grid, Jan, 2017](#)
- [Marine litter \(tabular data from LitterWatch\)](#)
- <https://emodnet-chemistry.maris.nl/search?step=-059mmltr>

Reference System Information**Reference System Information**

Code	EPSG:3035
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Metadata

Metadata identifier	15389e51-5204-4c6b-b40f-ad4af9a6f590			
Language	English			
Character encoding	UTF8			
Contact	Organisation	Individual	Electronic mail address sdi@eea.europa.eu	Website Role Point of contact
	European Environment Agency			

Type of resource

Resource type	Dataset
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Metadata linkage	https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/catalogue/srv/api/records/15389e51-5204-4c6b-b40f-ad4af9a6f590
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Date info (Creation)	2023-09-29T11:30:13.794Z
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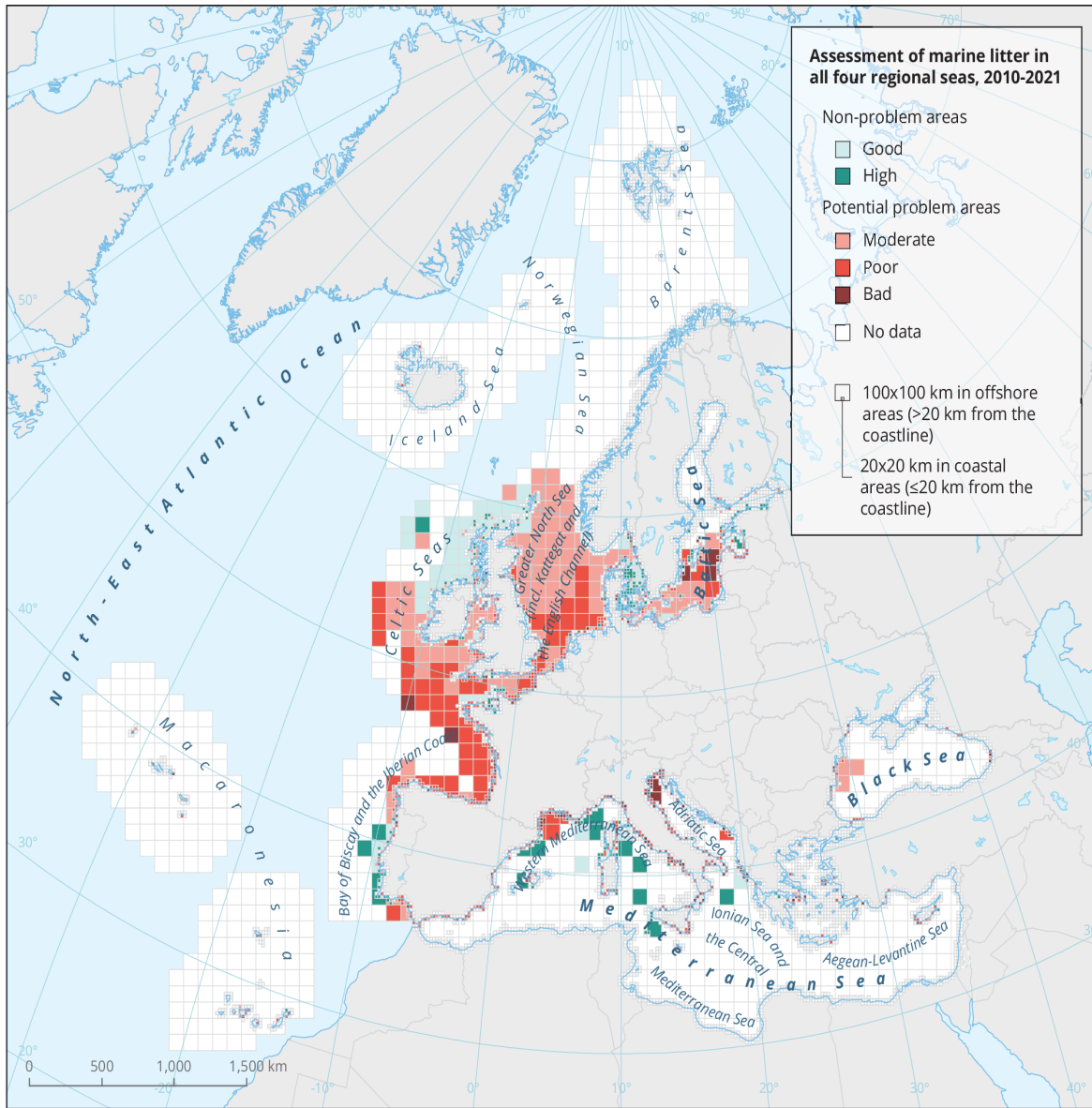
Date info (Revision)	2025-10-09T10:37:56.453885Z
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Metadata standard

Title	ISO 19115/19139
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Edition	1.0
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Overviews



Reference data: ©ESRI

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