



## 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

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No information provided.

Maintenance and update frequency	Not planned
<a href="#">GEMET - INSPIRE themes, version 1.0</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Oceanographic geographical features</a></li><li><a href="#">Hydrography</a></li></ul>
Keywords	
Keywords	
<a href="#">GEMET</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">water</a></li></ul>
Continents, countries, sea regions of the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Black Sea</li><li>Baltic Sea</li><li>Mediterranean Sea</li><li>Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast</li></ul>
Spatial scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>European</li></ul>
EEA Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2022 3.1.12</li></ul>
<a href="#">EEA topics</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Water</a></li></ul>
Access constraints	Other restrictions
Other constraints	<a href="#">no limitations to public access</a>
	Other restrictions

Use constraints	
Other constraints	EEA standard re-use policy: unless otherwise indicated, re-use of content on the EEA website for commercial or non-commercial purposes is permitted free of charge, provided that the source is acknowledged ( <a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu/legal/copyright">http://www.eea.europa.eu/legal/copyright</a> ). Copyright holder: European Environment Agency (EEA).
Spatial representation type	Vector
Distance	100 km
Language of dataset	English
Topic category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environment</li></ul>



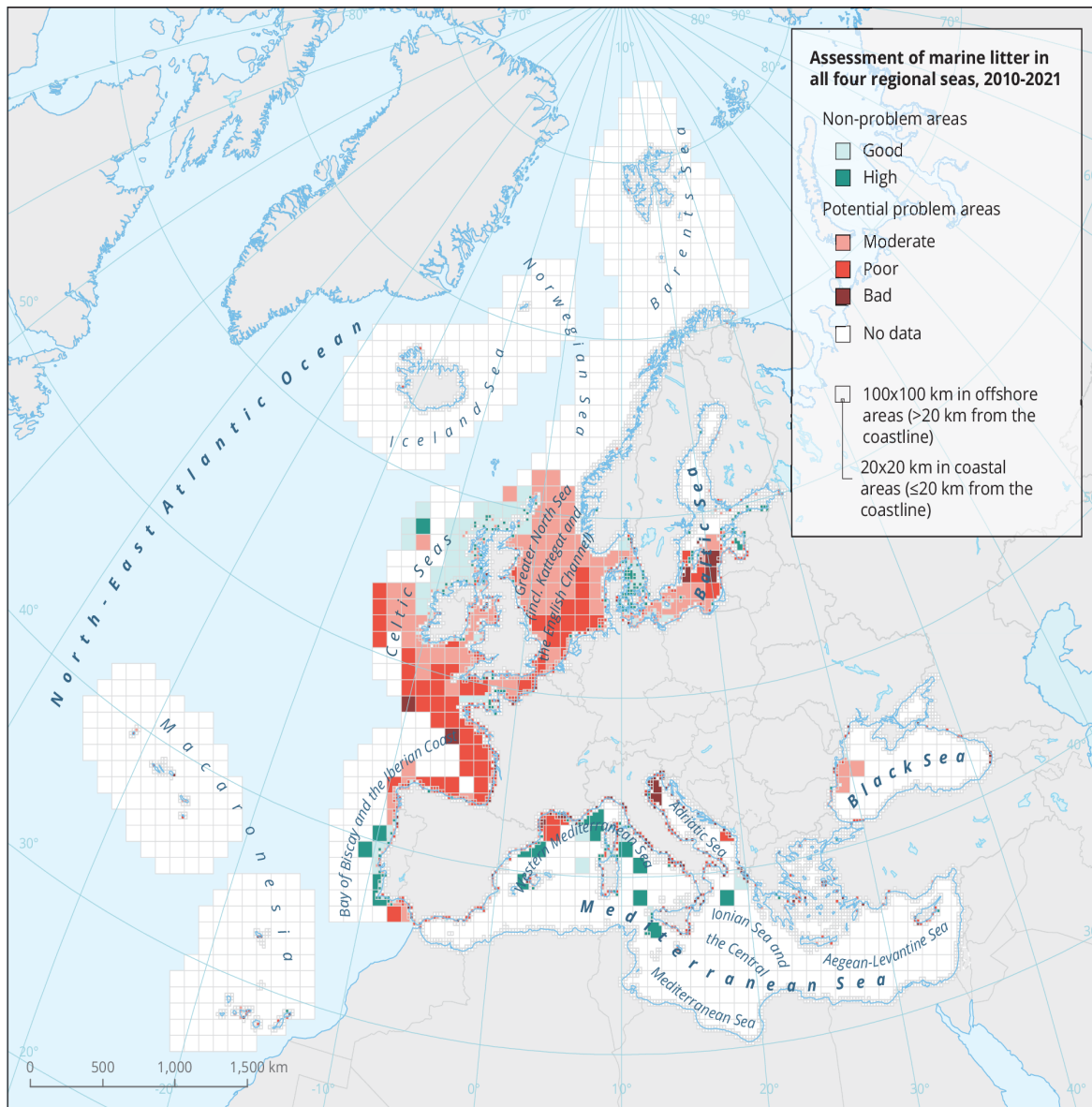
	<p>covered 124 beaches from 2012 to 2018. EMODnet data contained observations from 2010 to 2020 at 1225 beaches; c) floating microlitter data came from 839 trawls conducted on 60 cruises between 2011 and 2020. "</p> <p>A broad summary of the methodology is in the European Topic Centre (ETC) report "Marine 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 km<sup>2</sup>; and (iii) the count of floating microlitter particles per m<sup>3</sup> in surface water samples. It is</p> <p>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</p> <p>percentile of the counts of seafloor litter in the assessment dataset is applied (corresponding to 15.4 items/km<sup>2</sup>). This method is therefore analogous to the method used to derive the beach litter threshold. An alternative, less restrictive threshold value (230 items /km<sup>2</sup>) is proposed by UNEP (2016) and tested in</p> <p>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 m<sup>3</sup> 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>
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Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">EEA marine assessment grid, Jan. 2017</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Marine litter (tabular data from LitterWatch)</a></li><li>• <a href="https://emodnet-chemistry.maris.nl/search?step=-059mmltr">https://emodnet-chemistry.maris.nl/search?step=-059mmltr</a></li></ul>
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Metadata

File identifier	15389e51-5204-4c6b-b40f-ad4af9a6f590 <a href="#">XML</a>			
Metadata language	English			
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Overviews



Reference data: ©ESRI

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