

## ADDRESSING THE GROWING THREAT OF MARINE LITTER: MIO-ECSDE ACTIONS ON THE SCIENCE-POLICY-SOCIETY INTERFACE

### MIO-ECSDE IN A NUTSHELL

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) is a non-profit Federation of over 130 Mediterranean NGOs working in the fields of Environment and Development in 25 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area. It acts as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene.

### MIO-ECSDE's ACTIONS TO COMBAT MARINE LITTER

In full acknowledgement of the growing threat of marine litter MIO-ECSDE has developed and implemented a number of actions, ranging from the monitoring and influencing of relevant policy, all the way to hands on activities. A brief presentation of its latest initiatives follows:

**Joint measures to preserve natural ecosystems from marine litter in the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas, ACT4LITTER (2017-2018):** The ACT4LITTER aims to facilitate efforts for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Its main lines of action include:

- ✓ Identification of feasible measures to address marine litter issues in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs);
- ✓ Development of MPA-specific action plans for preventing and mitigating marine litter;
- ✓ Elaboration of a joint governance plan for improving marine litter management in MPAs.

MIO-ECSDE is a key partner of the project bringing in its longstanding experience in research/policy/advocacy/awareness raising and networking on marine litter issues. Read more at: [www.mio-ecsde.org/project/act4litter](http://www.mio-ecsde.org/project/act4litter)

**Derelict Fishing Gear Management System in the Adriatic Region, DeFishGear (2013-2016):** The DeFishGear project aimed at facilitating efforts of policy makers and stakeholders in effectively dealing with the issue of marine litter in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. Its main lines of action included:

- ✓ Carrying out an assessment of marine litter found on beaches, the sea surface, the seafloor and in marine biota in the Adriatic and Ionian coasts and seas;
- ✓ Development of recommendations for policy makers based on sound-scientific evidence and knowledge on marine litter;
- ✓ Building capacities to monitor marine litter in a harmonized way;
- ✓ Piloting concrete measures to tackle marine litter such as fishing for litter, targeted recovery of ghost nets, setting up a system to collect and recycle derelict fishing gear, awareness raising on the impacts and solutions of marine litter.

MIO-ECSDE has been leading the marine litter monitoring and assessment component of the project. Read more at: [www.defishgear.net](http://www.defishgear.net)





**MARine Litter in Europe Seas: Social Awareness and CO-Responsibility, MARLISCO (2012-2015):** The MARLISCO project aimed to raise public awareness, facilitate dialogue and promote co-responsibility among the different actors, towards a joint vision for the sustainable management of marine litter across all European seas. Its activities included:

- ✓ *A scoping study of the sources and trends regarding marine litter in each Regional Sea;*
- ✓ *A collection of best practices from all partner countries;*
- ✓ *A survey on the prevailing perceptions and attitudes of different stakeholders regarding marine litter;*
- ✓ *National debates in 12 partner countries;*
- ✓ *Diversified, tailor-made national activities including exhibitions, workshops, a video contest, festivals, clean ups, etc.*

MIO-ECSDE led the Awareness Raising & Education related component of the project and was also the Regional Node Leader for the Mediterranean. Read more at: [www.marlisco.net](http://www.marlisco.net)

**Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from Litter, Plastic Busters:** The Plastic Busters project was labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016. The label delivered is the recognition of the urgency to join forces towards a shared and coordinated regional approach towards concrete actions and solutions against marine litter. MIO-ECSDE is a key partner of the project, responsible for the demonstration projects showcasing specific prevention and mitigation actions to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter at the Mediterranean Sea. Read more at: [www.plasticbusters.unisi.it](http://www.plasticbusters.unisi.it)

**Regional survey on abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear and ghost nets in the Mediterranean Sea:** MIO-ECSDE in collaboration and with the financial support by UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan, conducted a survey-based regional assessment on abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and ghost nets, relying on information collected mainly from fishermen in eleven Mediterranean countries: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco (Atlantic and Mediterranean side), Palestine (Gaza), Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The objective of this survey was to provide insight on the situation in the targeted countries given that relevant information is lacking, fragmented and inconsistent. Read more at: [www.mio-ecsde.org/resources](http://www.mio-ecsde.org/resources)

## STOPPING MARINE LITTER TOGETHER

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS

JOINING FORCES & BUILDING BRIDGES

IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AREA

