



Tackling marine litter in the Atlantic Area

2nd NEWSLETTER

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Secretaria Regional
do Ambiente e Recursos Naturais
Direção Regional do Ordenamento
do Território e Ambiente



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1 | Events

2nd Coordination meeting in Madeira

The CleanAtlantic consortium met in Funchal (Madeira) on the 23rd and 24th of May in the II Coordination Meeting. The meeting consisted of a 2-day event in which partners reviewed and discussed the progress on activities and tasks. The meeting was hosted by DROTA (Direção Regional do Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente, Madeira) in the Rectory of the University of Madeira.



Additionally, three discussion groups were coupled to the meeting: 1) gathering and assessing data knowledge and gaps in the Atlantic Area, 2) monitoring of marine litter and data management, and 3) mapping and modelling of marine litter.

Following the coordination meeting, partners involved in awareness raising activities met on the 25th in the workshop "CleanAtlantic awareness raising strategy" to design raising-awareness actions and to agree on a common methodology to follow in all partner regions.

CleanAtlantic in the OSPAR ICG-ML meeting

CleanAtlantic participated in the [Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter](#) organised by OSPAR on the 13th-14th June 2018. The meeting was hosted in Berlin (Germany) and chaired by Stefanie Werner (DE) and Mareike Erfeling (NL). The project was presented by our colleagues from DROTA (Pedro Sepúlveda) and Cedre (Loïc Kerambrun) that informed the participants of the meeting about the main objectives, working streams and expected results of the project.



Participation in the PROTECMA Workshop



The Spanish Technological Platform [PROTECMA](#) organised and hosted the Workshop "Technological challenges for the detection, monitoring and removal of marine litter" on the 13th June in the CETMAR facilities, Vigo. The objectives of the workshop were to present different initiatives and projects addressing detection, monitoring and removal of marine litter, and to identify gaps in technology and knowledge that may lead to new collaborative projects.

The CleanAtlantic partners from IEO (Jesús Gago) and USC (Vicente Pérez) presented part of the work that is being done in the project regarding monitoring of marine litter and application of numerical models for the identification of hotspots.

2 | Project activities

New CleanAtlantic dissemination materials



Check out our website, the contents now also available in Spanish, Portuguese and French. For more information on the project objectives, tasks, and expected results, or to have a look at the project dissemination materials (brochure and poster) go to www.cleanatlantic.eu.

Available for download in the project website in the four languages of the project (EN, ES, PT, FR)



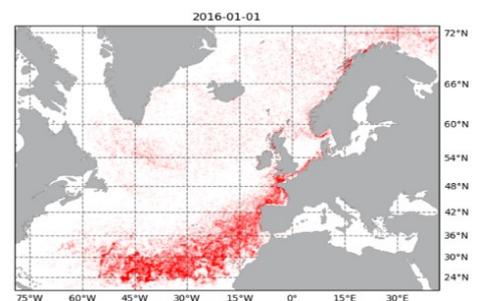
Surveying and mapping marine litter

On the 22th June our colleagues from the Oceanographic Observatory of Madeira (OOM) performed a few initial tests with the HexH2OPro Hexacopter drone to get it ready for the next oceanographic campaign where it will be used to detect and monitor floating marine litter around the Madeira Island. In addition to this, a manta trawl was used in the OOM 2018 Oceanographic campaign that kicked off at the beginning of July for sampling micro and mesoplastics. Researchers from ARDITI also had the chance to work with the ROV LUSO and use the ROV footage for marine litter detection during the cruises.



Modelling marine litter fate in the Atlantic

Partners involved in developing a transport model tool to forecast the formation of hotspots of marine litter in the Atlantic Area are having frequent exchanges to share the concepts and specificities of their models and decide on the most adequate approach to address the great variability of the processes and types of marine debris that need to be considered. The model rationale is being detailed in a report to be published in the coming months. Besides the big picture of the hotspots in the Atlantic Area, partners will also work on 5 local case studies in the participating countries (Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal).



Identification of stakeholders and initiatives

Our partners from Cedre and CEFAS have developed an online questionnaire for identifying the stakeholders that are carrying out interesting initiatives tackling marine litter in the Atlantic Area (local authorities, ports, NGOs, fishermen associations, etc.). The purpose of the survey is to make ongoing or past experiences known and shared within the European Atlantic Area so they can be used as source of inspiration for those fighting against marine litter in other locations within this region and beyond. The survey will be launched in September.

Impacts of cigarette butts in the marine environment

Cedre is developing a study of impacts and fate of cigarette butts in the marine environment. They have already started studying the behaviour of this common litter item in the marine environment and are planning to start the degradation kinetic study in 2019. In the frame of this work, Cedre is analysing smoked and unsmoked cigarette filters seeking for differences in composition, thus, on their potential for polluting the marine environment. To this aim the Cedre has developed a “smoking machine” that enables the smoking of cigarettes under the same conditions and without the need of jeopardising the health of their researchers.



A database of marine litter projects

Besides the identification of marine litter stakeholders mentioned before, the CleanAtlantic project is also gathering information on the past and ongoing public funded research initiatives and programmes addressing marine litter at national, EU and international level. The CleanAtlantic partner CPMR will collect this information based on a commonly agreed methodology among partners. The information will be used to build an online database of marine litter projects and initiatives that will be publicly available.

3 | Coming soon...

10th ICMB



The 10th International Conference on Marine BioInvasions ([ICMB-X](#)) will be held in Puerto Madryn in Patagonia, Argentina, between the 16th and 18th October 2018. CleanAtlantic will be presented there by João Canning-Clode (ARDITI) in an oral communication titled "Hitch-hikers on marine debris: understanding new arrivals in an offshore island". For this work, ARDITI recently initiated a research program to evaluate marine debris as a possible vector for introduction of NIS (Non-Indigenous Species) to Madeira Island by engaging and establishing a cooperation protocol with stakeholders (e.g. fishermen, dive operators and whale and bird watching companies).

Workshop - 5th Annual Stakeholder Conference

In collaboration with other marine litter projects: [OceanWise](#), [ML-Style](#), and [LitterDrone](#), CleanAtlantic will organise the workshop “Marine litter: From a global environmental challenge to a job creation driver” to be held in the frame of [the 5th Annual Atlantic Stakeholders Conference](#) that will be hosted in Vigo on the 23rd and 24th October.

By highlighting existing and ongoing initiatives that are great examples of public-private collaboration and stakeholder involvement, this workshop intends to inspire stakeholders to follow innovative paths when answering the challenges presented by marine litter, as well as making them realize the tangible job and business opportunities that this issue presents as part of a Blue Economy. The workshop is also expected to help identify technological and knowledge gaps that deserve additional collaborative work and joint actions, as well as helping to form new partnerships and associated initiatives.



Next Coordination Meeting and Technical Workshop

The next CleanAtlantic coordination meeting will take place in Brest on the 3rd and 4th December and will be hosted by Cedre. The CleanAtlantic advisory board, which comprises governmental organisations with competences in marine litter issues in the countries participating in the project, will participate in this meeting too. Additionally, Cedre is taking the chance to organise a workshop on the following day after the meetings. Details on the technical aspect to be addressed at this event will be publicised soon on the project website and social networks.

