SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future

SWIM-H2020 SM EFH-IL-3

Plastics and Marine Litter

Presented by:

Mr Paolo MARENGO, Plastic Expert

SWIM and Horizon 2020 SM EFH-IL-3

05.12.2018, Jerusalem, Israel

This Project is funded by the European Union

Plastics in EU - Legislation

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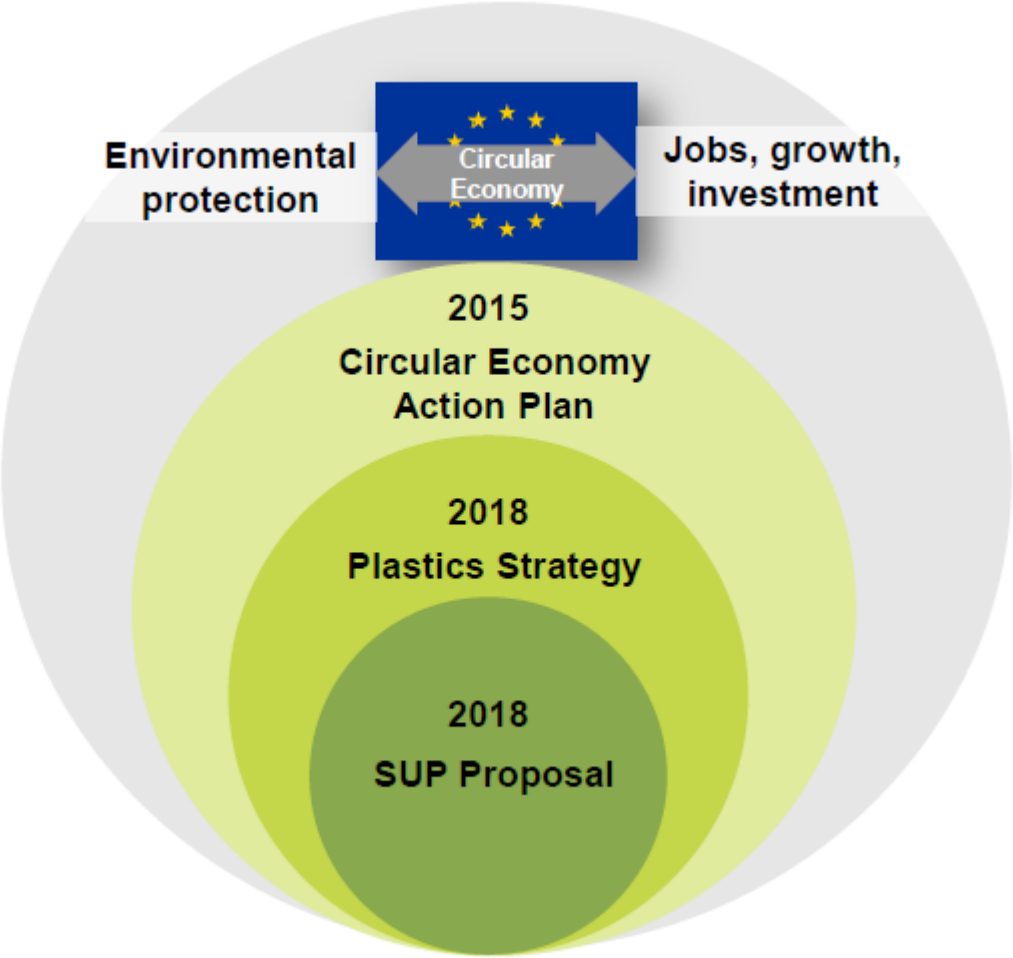
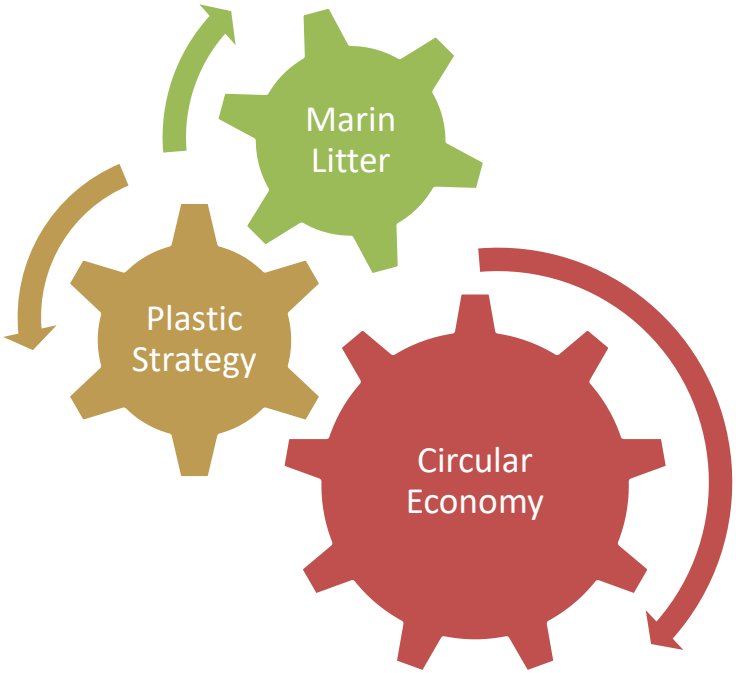
EU Circular Economy Agenda



Single-use plastics (SUP) Directive Proposal: New EU rules to reduce marine litter

Brussels, 28 May 2018



EU-wide rules to target the 10 single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches and seas, as well as lost and abandoned fishing gear.

Together these constitute **70% of all marine litter items**.

Single-use plastics (SUP) Directive Proposal: action on single-use plastics and fishing gear

Proposal for a ***Directive***

Different measures for **each item** taking into account:
- **consumer behaviour/needs**
- **opportunities for businesses**

Currently discussed

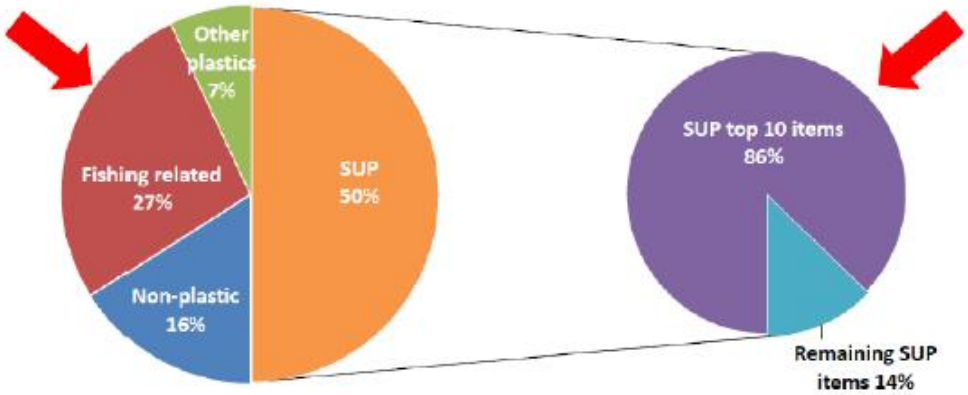
Single-use plastics (SUP) Directive Proposal: New EU rules to reduce marine litter

"Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastics products on the environment" – presented on 28 May 2018

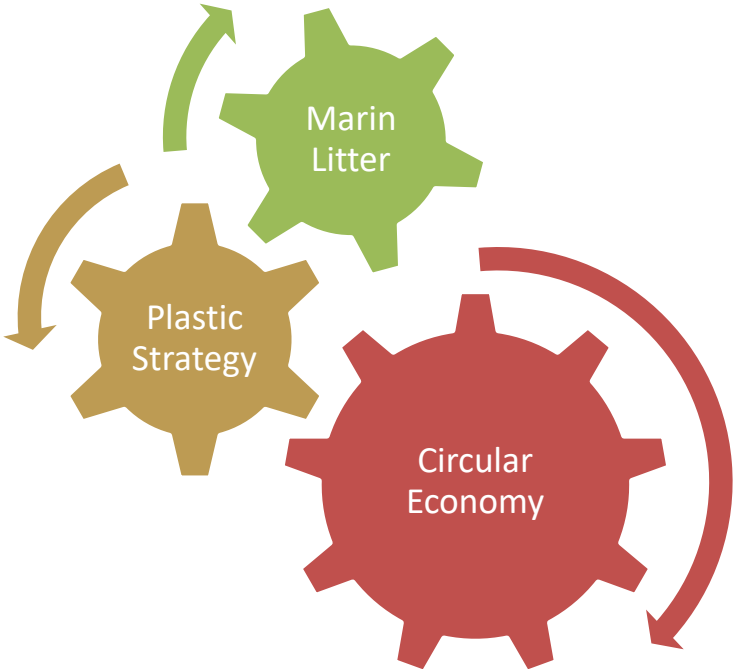
THE 10 MOST FOUND SINGLE USE PLASTIC ITEMS ON EUROPEAN BEACHES ACCOUNT FOR 43% OF TOTAL MARINE LITTER

FISHING GEAR REPRESENTS AN ADDITIONAL 27% OF ALL MARINE LITTER

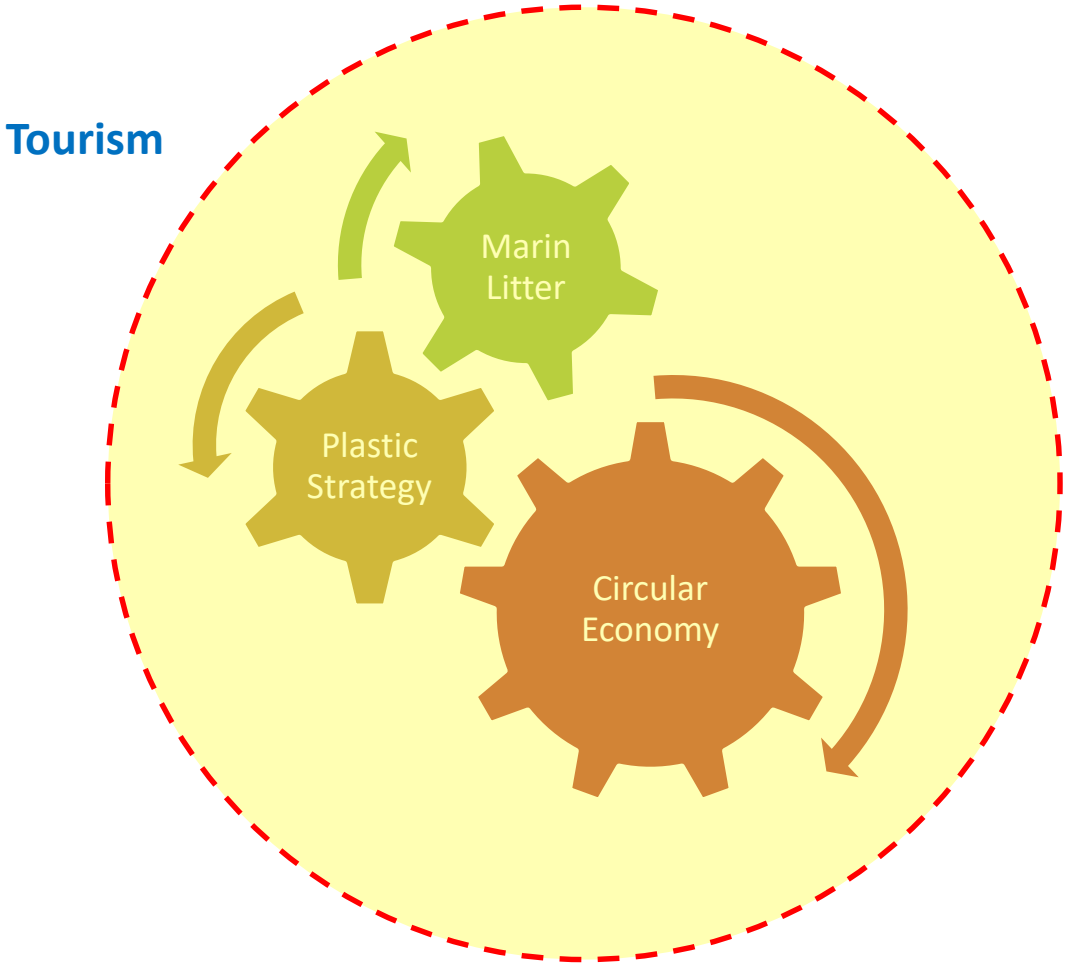
THE COMMISSION IS TAKING ACTION IN THESE TWO AREAS, WHICH REPRESENT 70% OF ALL MARINE LITTER FOUND ON EUROPE'S BEACHES



The tourism factor



The tourism factor



How to monitor marine litter and tourism waste: results from BLUEISLANDS project

Interreg Mediterranean

BLUEISLANDS

BLUEISLANDS
IN A NUTSHELL

- 14 partners from 8 countries in a systematic effort to properly **identify**, **address** and **mitigate** the effects of the **seasonal variation of waste generation on MED islands**

- Waste Characteristics Study (quantification and characteriszation of waste generated by hotels, restaurants, bars, etc., in selected impact areas). **2018**

- Monitoring and reuse of wastewater discharges in coastal marine ecosystems. **2017**

- Monitoring of marine litter in 24 beaches of 8 islands (micro- and macroplastics). **2017**

Hypothesis: marine litter on beaches of Mediterranean islands is increasing seasonally due to the increase of visitors during the high touristic season.

→ 3 beaches x 8 islands (highly touristic – used by locals – remote)

Monitoring Marine Litter Touristic beach

Monitoring Marine Litter Beach used by locals

Monitoring Marine Litter Remote beach

BLUEISLANDS Monitoring Marine Litter

Hypothesis: marine litter on beaches of Mediterranean islands is increasing seasonally due to the increase of visitors during the high touristic season.

→ 3 beaches x 8 islands (highly touristic – used by locals – remote)

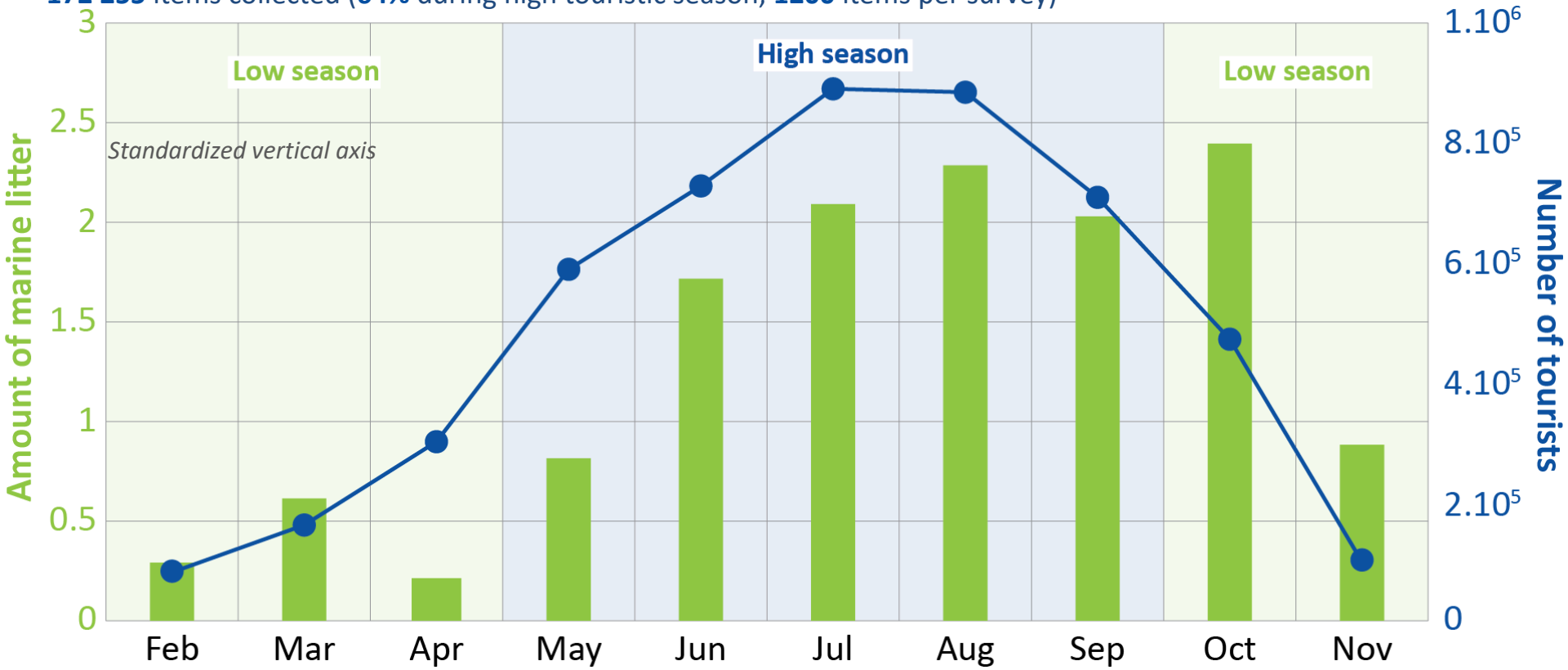
Method: fixed 100m portion of beach is periodically monitored during both low and high touristic seasons. *The OSPAR guideline for monitoring marine litter on beaches* was adapted to BLUEISLANDS needs (inclusion of the microplastics (<5mm))

BLUEISLANDS Monitoring Marine Litter – Overview

147 surveys on 100m of beach

24 beaches monitored from February 2017 to November 2017

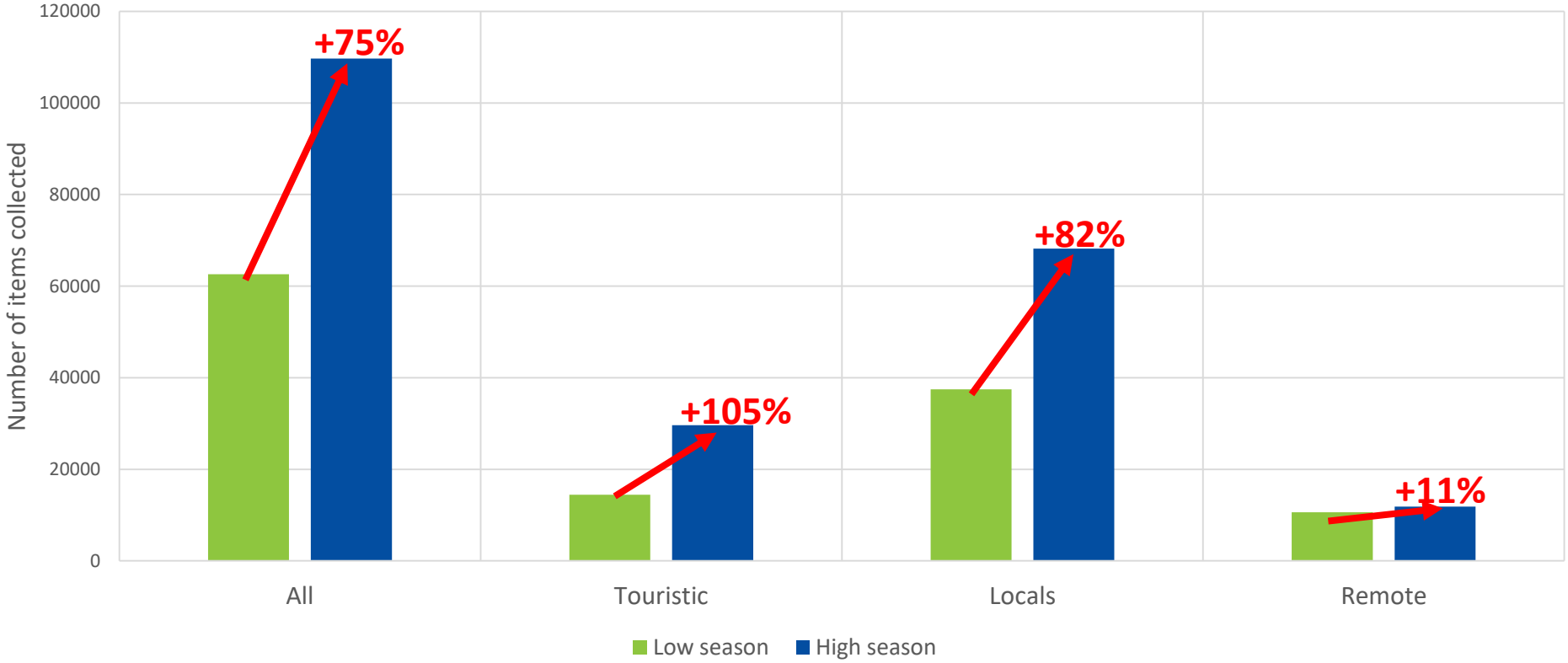
172 255 items collected (**64%** during high touristic season, **1200** items per survey)



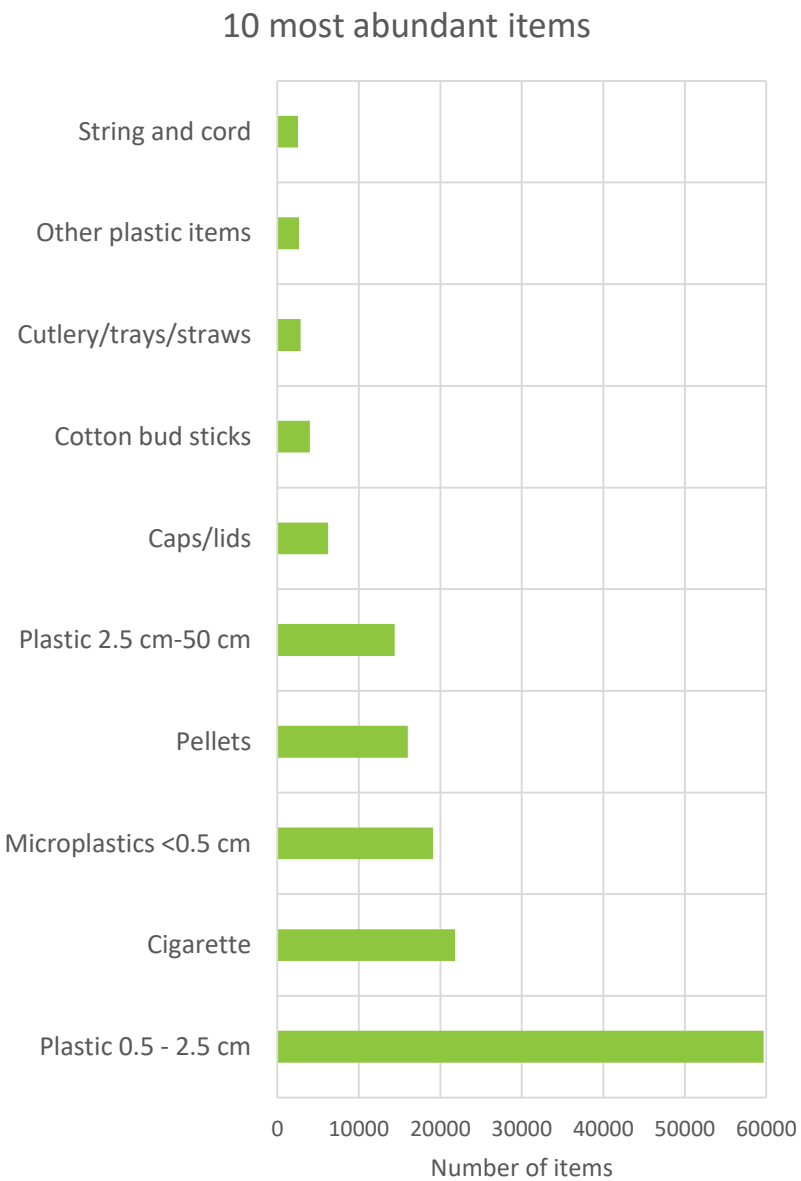
BLUEISLANDS Monitoring Marine Litter – Overview

Average increase of 75% in summer (11% - 105% depending the type of beach)

Beaches used by locals more impacted (61% of the total), followed by the touristic beaches (26% of the total) and the remote beaches (13% of the total)



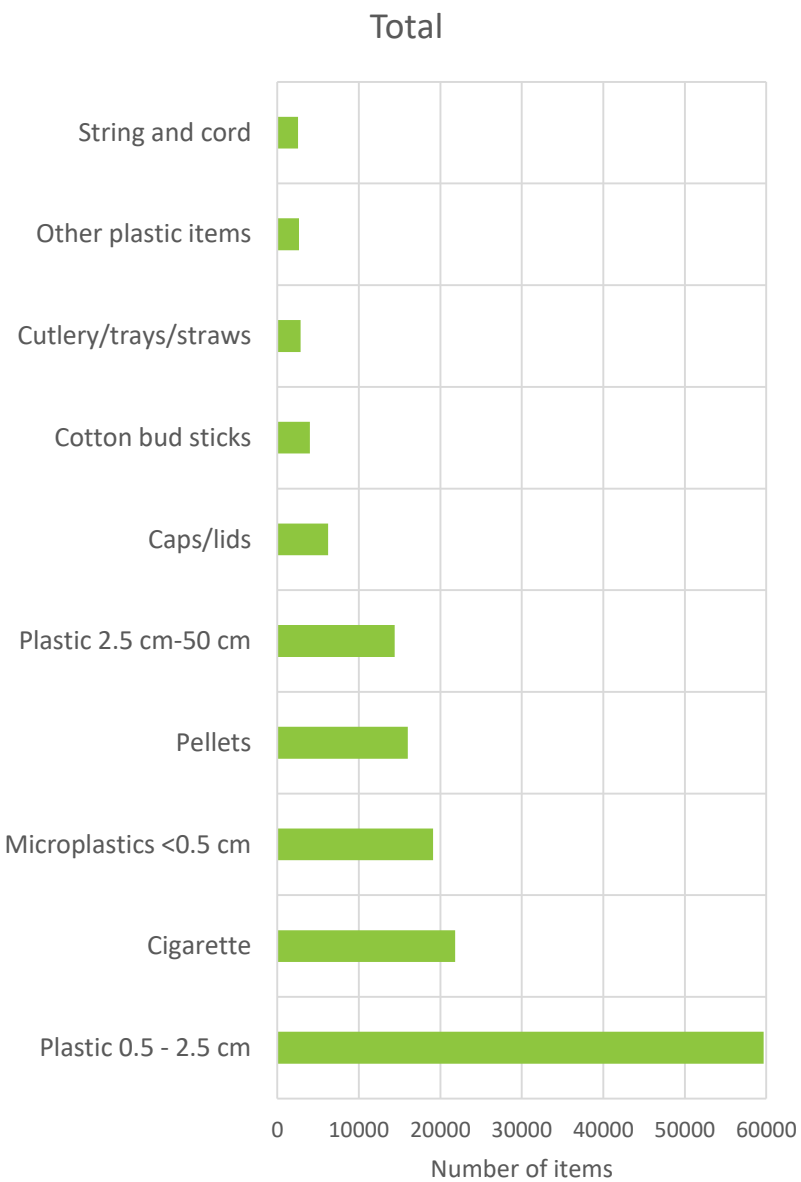
BLUEISLANDS Monitoring Marine Litter – Overview

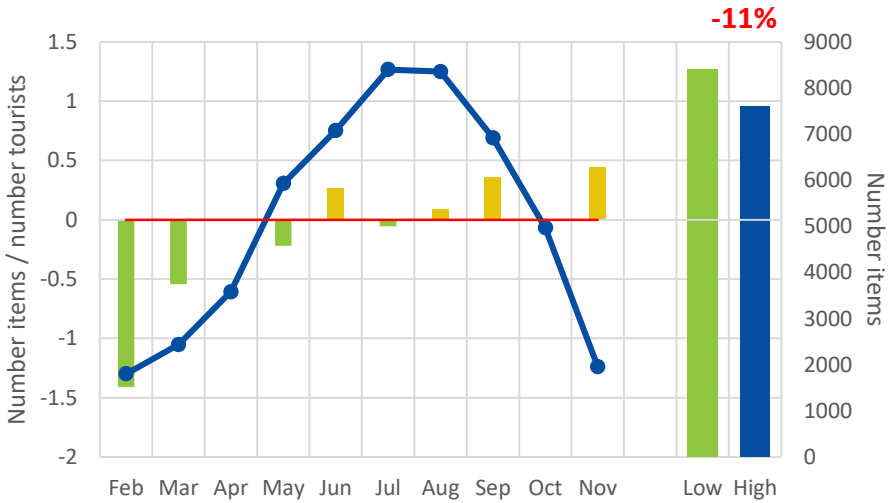


→ 87% of ML

Standardized vertical scales

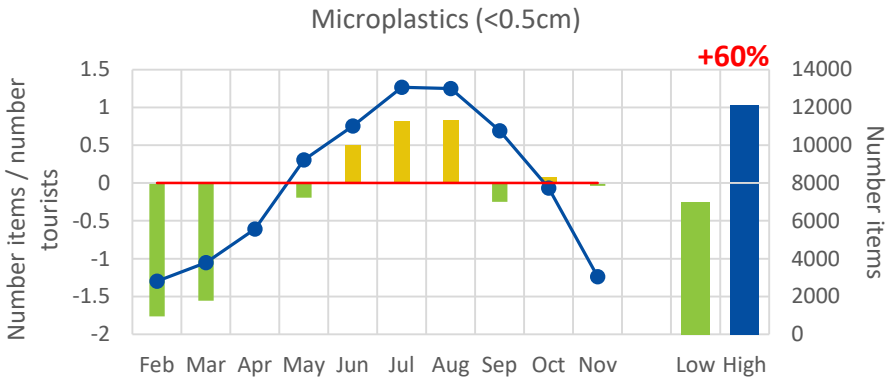
BLUEISLANDS Monitoring Marine Litter – Overview



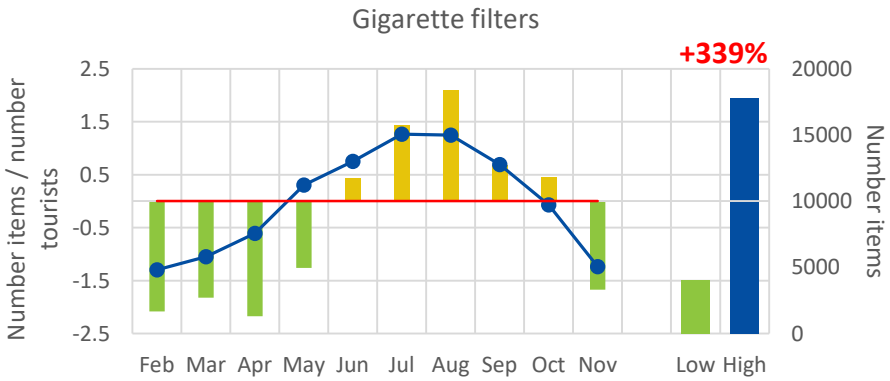


→ 9% of ML

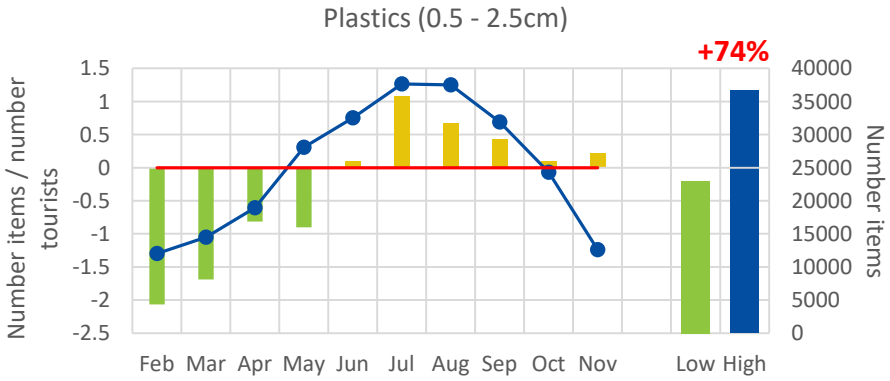
BLUEISLANDS Monitoring Marine Litter – Overview



→ 11% of ML



→ 13% of ML



→ 35% of ML

Take-home messages:

Increase of the marine litter during the high touristic season in the 3 different types of beach

Beaches used by locals are more affected

Pieces of plastic <2,5 cm and microplastics show a seasonal increase

Thanks

SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future

Thank you for your attention.

www.swim-h2020.eu info@swim-h2020.eu

This Project is funded by the European Union

SWIM-H2020 SM

For further information

Website

www.swim-h2020.eu E: info@swim-h2020.eu

Facebook Page

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