Marine Litter - UNEP Regional Seas Programme addressing a Global Challenge

Dr. Ellik Adler, Coordinator Reg. Seas
UNEP Regional Seas Programme
Established 1974

18 Regional Seas Programmes, over 160 countries
(14 Conventions and various Action Plans)
The UNEP/RSP - a service and information center
http://www.unep.org/regionalseas
Main Activities of the Regional Seas

- Pollution from land based activities
- Oil spill preparedness and response and marine based pollution
- Dumping at sea
- Biodiversity conservation
- Monitoring and assessment
- Integrated coastal area management + Ecosystem approach
'any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment'
Marine Litter is probably one of the most ‘exposed’ problem to the wide public, which affects, interests and irritates hundreds of millions of beach-goers, and many millions who are economically affected.

No other marine pollution component mobilizes such public participation and readiness to act.

And -
- it is a transboundary problem
- it is a multi-sectoral problem
SOURCES of Marine Litter

Sea-based sources
- Merchant shipping, ferries and cruise liners
- Naval and research ships, pleasure crafts
- Fishing vessels and fish farming
- Offshore oil and gas platforms

Land-based sources
- Waste Management related sources - municipal landfills on/near the coast, industrial facilities
- River transport, ravines, storm water
- Discharge of untreated municipal sewerage
- Tourism and beach-going leftovers
• **Effects:** a threat to marine life and human health

• **Impact:** economic losses to fishermen, coastal communities, tourism, boat owners, power stations, navy, etc.

**Damage to fishing vessels and gear**
(estimate for the Shetlands - loss of $12,000-60,000 per year per vessel)
Platform for invasive species
Problems and bottlenecks

• Despite international, regional and national efforts, there are indications that ML is increasing

• The lack of international legal instruments (except for IMO/MARPOL Annex V) or Global Programmes - makes it difficult to tackle

• Deficiencies in implementation and enforcement of existing regulations

• Lack of awareness among main stakeholders and the general public
ML is partially addressed by these Conventions and agreements

- **IMO** - MARPOL 73/78 Annex V (garbage from ships)
- **London Convention and Protocol** on Dumping
- **Basel Convention**
- **Agenda 21** and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- **CBD**, with the Jakarta Mandate
- **CMS** - Convention on Migratory Species
- **GPA** - Global Programme of Action on Land-based Activities
- **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries** (abandoned/lost fishing gear)
Activities developed by UNEP

- The Analytical Review (Feasibility Study)
- Publications and outreach
- Participation in UNICPOLOSO (GA decisions on Marine Litter!!)
- Development of Regional Activities
- Development of a GEF MS Project
- Cooperation with other U.N agencies
- Ties with the Civil Society
- Establish of a network of NGOs
Partners

- UNEP (Regional Seas, GPA, DTIE, Basel Convention)
- IMO and the LCP
- UNESCO/IOC
- FAO (and RFBs)
- Regional organisations (EU)
- Countries / Governments
- Civil Society – Industry and the Private sector, NGOs)
A major achievement -

Decisions of the 60th United Nations General Assembly
(Agenda item 75(a) - Nov. 2005; Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea)

The General Assembly,

65. Notes the lack of information and data on marine debris and encourages relevant nations, regional and international organizations to undertake further studies on the extent and nature of the problem, also encourages States to develop partnerships with industry and civil society to raise awareness of the extent of the impact of marine debris on the health and productivity of the marine environment and consequent economic loss;
The General Assembly -

66. *Urges* States to integrate the issue of marine debris within national strategies dealing with recycling, reuse and reduction (of waste) and promote the development of appropriate economic incentives to address this issue, and *encourages* States to cooperate regionally and subregionally to develop and implement joint prevention and recovery programmes for marine debris;
The General Assembly -

67. *Invites* IMO in consultation with the FAO, UNEP and DOALOS, to review MARPOL Annex V and to assess its effectiveness in addressing sea-based sources of marine debris;

68. *Welcomes* the continued work of IMO relating to port waste reception facilities, and notes the work done to identify problem areas and develop a comprehensive action plan;

70. *Welcomes* the convening of the Second IGR of the GPA (Beijing October 2006) as an opportunity to discuss marine debris in relation to the source categories of the GPA”...
U.N General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries – 60/31

• The resolution addresses, among others, issues of “Responsible Fisheries” and in particular – Lost and Abandoned Fishing Gear
Main Challenges

• Sustainability of the Global Initiative
• Sustainability of the Regional Plans + integration into RS PoW
• Cooperation with Global Partners (IMO, FAO, IOC, DTIE, Basel)
• The GEF Project – change in GEF's priorities/strategies
• Finding donor agencies/countries for specific sub-projects:
  - Harmonized Monitoring Guidelines
  - Abandoned and Lost Fishing Gear
  - Economic Instruments
Regional Activities developed and sponsored under Regional Seas

- Baltic Sea
- Black Sea
- Caspian Sea
- East Asian Seas
- Eastern Africa
- Mediterranean
- North West Pacific
- Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- South Asian Seas
- South East Pacific
- Wider Caribbean
- Soon – Pacific – SPREP and LMEs
The 11 Regional Activities -

• A flexible ‘template’ - region-adaptable
• Equity between countries - opportunity to present approaches and priorities on ML
• **Actors:** Regional Consultant, National Consultants and the Secretariat (RCU)
• Nat’l/regional assessments, draft policy document, regional meeting of experts and nat’l authorities; final regional strategy.
• **Role of secretariat:** Integrate the strategy into PoW; the Action Plan; the GEF project; the legal system; achieve programmatic and financial sustainability.
Required Multilateral, International and Global Activities

1. Initiation of the **Regional Activities** as a basis for a Global Approach;
2. **Building ownerships** and partnerships
3. Develop **information and outreach** to change human behaviour and attitude;
4. Develop **sectoral activities**;
5. **Fundraising** for global and multilateral initiatives;
6. **Focus on**: Economic Instruments; Abandoned Fishing Gear; Harmonize Monitoring Protocols;
7. **DO NOT develop an new Global Convention** (for the time being)
We have to remember...

ML is not an environmental problem that can be solved solely by means of legislation, law enforcement, beach cleaning campaigns and technical solutions.

- ML is also a cultural problem. Efforts to change attitudes, behaviours, management approaches, education and involvement of all sectors and interests, need to be undertaken.
Possible cooperation COBSEA ML activity and UNEP

- Development of ‘global guidelines’ for monitoring and assessing marine litter.
- UNEP’s or APEC’s study on use of economic instruments to manage and address marine litter
- Marine litter & Abandoned and Lost Fishing Gear
- The sustainability and follow up of COBSEA ML activity
Thank you