

A Methodology Study on Distribution and Composition of Marine Litter

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Abstract

In order to develop a methodology in assessing the levels of marine litter pollution, a short term pilot-survey is designed covering beach, sea surface and sea floor in an experimental area (METU-IMS beach, Erdemli) located in the northeastern Mediterranean starting from September 2013 within the framework of the MERMAID and PERSEUS projects. In this study, the amount (in number and weight) and composition (according to marine litter classification code system- MLCS) of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines as well as accumulated on the sea floor were determined. Shore sampling included micro-plastic particles of 5 to 1 mm and 1 mm to 200 µm in size accumulated on the strand line. The distribution and composition marine litter in the beach is being evaluated taking into account different human activities including the tourism and agriculture along with the effect of meteorological events with the aim of developing a comprehensive methodology for marine litter assessment taking into account the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union.