



## **SIF AGM TIREE, 19 & 20 September 2018 Marine Plastic**

Plastic consumption has increased since the 1950s and is expected to double to over 600 million tonnes per year by the year 2038 – and around 70% of Europe's plastic waste including the UK and Scotland is still being sent to landfill or incinerated. On UK beaches, levels of litter have doubled in the past 20 years. Litter has increased by 135% since 1994, with plastics increasing by a staggering 180%. At present, it is estimated one truckload of plastic waste (8 tonnes) enters the ocean every minute.

### **Marine Conservation Society's Pollution policy and Statement position**

#### **SUMMARY OF OUR POLICY, 'ASKS' AND ACTIONS (extract)**

##### **MCS is of the opinion that:**

- Plastics in themselves are useful materials and are an essential component of everyday life.
- Too much plastic is thrown away or used in unnecessary packaging.
- Not enough goods are made of recycled plastics and there are not sufficient resources to recycle all types of plastics.
- Plastics are made from non-renewable resources and consequently much more effort needs to be made to reduce, reuse and recycle all types of plastic.
- A precautionary approach to the presence of plastic litter in the environment should be taken.
- Plastic needs to be recognised as a significant and extensive marine pollutant.
- We support efforts by all sectors to work to reduce the effects of plastics on the marine environment.

##### **Our 'Asks'**

###### **MCS is asking all UK administrations to:**

- **Formulate coherent marine litter strategies and action plans.**
- **Appoint a lead body to implement these strategies.**
- **Commit to having meaningful and ambitious litter targets in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).**
- **Work with signatory countries to ensure the statutory enforcement of waste reduction measures under the OSPAR and MARPOL Conventions.**
- **Invest in enforcement of domestic legislation covering the proper disposal and clearance of litter from terrestrial and aquatic environments.**

- **Properly enforce current legislation for the protection and progressive improvement of the aquatic environment, and ensure polluters pay costs that truly reflect the damage they cause, in accordance with the Environmental Liability Directive.**
- **Ensure that the revised Port Reception Facilities (PRF) regulations bring in a ‘No Special Fee’ system across Europe.**
- **Extend existing PRF regulations to include all fishing vessels.**
- **Expand national kerbside plastic recycling schemes and infrastructure.**
- **Expand business plastic collection and recycling schemes.**
- **Ensure that plastics are sent to landfill or Energy from Waste plants only after all other recycling and reuse possibilities have been undertaken.**
- **Introduce a drinks bottle and can deposit scheme throughout the UK.**
- **Introduce a charge on all single use bags in England with no exemptions for small businesses or paper and biodegradable bags**
- **Ensure the proper provision, and maintenance, of public litter bins.**
- **Fund national, community based educational campaigns to encourage the public to ‘Bag It and Bin It’, reducing the amount of sewage-related debris reaching the environment.**
- **Fund research on:**
  - The ability of microplastics to adsorb toxins and to be ingested by marine wildlife.
  - The potential for these toxins to bioaccumulate up the food chain.
  - Increasing the understanding of plastic degradation times and their breakdown products. Introducing a ‘no blame’ reporting system for reporting lost or abandoned fishing gear. Introducing recycling and disposal facilities for fishing nets and lines at port and harbours. The impact of liquid plastics on the marine environment.
  - The sources of ocean-borne litter through major currents and marine industries around the UK

For MCS ‘s “Asks” to the plastics industry and manufacturers, the water industry and individuals as well as summary of MCS actions to date and full report, please go to:

<https://www.mcsuk.org/downloads/pollution/PPPS%20Marine%20Plastics.pdf>

For a concerted EU wide approach, see the Zero Waste Europe and Rethink Plastic Alliance proposal:

[https://zerowasteeurope.eu/downloads/the-price-is-right-or-is-it-the-case-for-taxing-plastics/?mc\\_cid=bbd79466c7&mc\\_eid=3e51445a04](https://zerowasteeurope.eu/downloads/the-price-is-right-or-is-it-the-case-for-taxing-plastics/?mc_cid=bbd79466c7&mc_eid=3e51445a04)