



A European program to implement indicators of litter impact on marine turtles



INDICator Impact Turtle

Implementation Of The Indicator Of Marine Litter On Sea Turtles And Biota In Regional Sea Conventions And Marine Strategy Framework Directive Areas



WHAT IS INDICIT?

World seas and oceans are **polluted by marine debris**, which have **negative impact** on marine organisms.

Europe and regional sea conventions undertake management measures in order **to improve the status of the seas**, and restore them.

Marine organisms can help the managers to **evaluate the efficiency of restoration measures**; some of them, like sea turtles, play the role of « **indicator species** ».

INDICIT is a collaborative 2-year project supported by the **European Commission**.

INDICIT OBJECTIVES:

- **develop a common approach** for monitoring the **marine debris ingestion by sea turtles**.
- **assess** whether **other species** could be **useful indicators**, in particular for entanglement and micro-debris ingestion.



LITTER IMPACT ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The **European Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (MSFD) aims to achieve the **Good Environmental Status** of marine waters **by 2020**. Two of its indicators concern the impact of **marine litter**.

INDICIT focuses on 3 types of litter impact indicators:

- 1 Litter ingestion** by sea turtle
- 2 Micro-litter** ingestion by sea turtle and fish
- 3 Entanglement in debris** (all fauna)

5,000 billion floating debris



Up to 90% of sea litter is plastics

1,400 impacted species

IMPROVING OCEAN STATUS

INDICIT will contribute to recover the **Good Environmental Status of our oceans** through :

- **developing an international perennial network** which will collect and exchange key information.
- **studying the impact of marine litter** on marine organisms.
- **testing existing, and proposing new indicators** for monitoring the impacts of litter on marine fauna.
- **providing training and standardized tools** to staff involved in the monitoring of debris impacts.

WORK AREA

INDICIT partners are scientific institutes from **5 European countries** (France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece) and **2 non-European Mediterranean countries** (Turkey, Tunisia).

INDICIT is working from basin to coastal areas in the Atlantic, Northern Seas and Mediterranean marine sub-regions concerned by Regional Sea Conventions (RSC) and European Marine Waters.



INDICIT project area



INDICIT partners



INDICIT PARTNERS



For more information and updates about the INDICIT project, join us on:

indicit-europa.eu

For any question, please write to coordination@indicit-europa.eu or communication@indicit-europa.eu

Photo credit: J. Bourjea, Cestmed, D. Dalet, HCMR, P. Hübner, Kelonia, J. Tomas