



marlin

BALTIC MARINE LITTER

| December 2012 |

Newsletter Nr. 4

In this newsletter:

- MARLIN 2nd International Conference in Riga at Briggen Tre Kronor
- First year results of beach litter monitoring
- MARLIN gets involved in Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Documentation of marine litter found on beaches in summer 2012

Marine litter data is important for the future of Baltic Sea



Briggen Tre Kronor in Riga

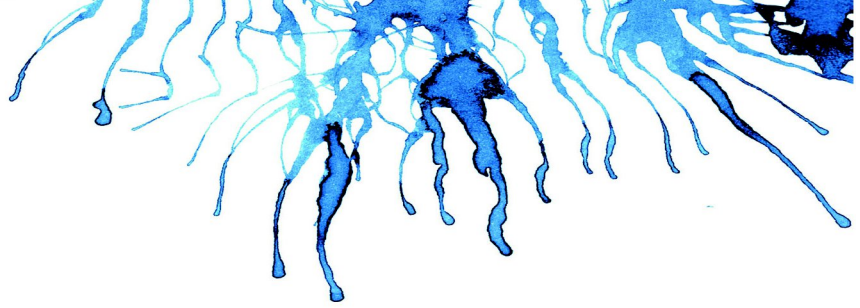
On September 13th MARLIN 2nd International Conference was held in Riga, at Briggen Tre Kronor in port of Riga. Different initiatives for cleaner Baltic

sea were discussed during the conference, and participants came up with many ideas on international level. Project leader Jessica Ångström presented the aims of EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and how the results and experience gathered in the MARLIN project could be of great value for the member states when implementing the directive. Member States have to develop Marine Strategies which serves as an action plans in order to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) in the European seas by 2020. From the marine litter perspective it means to identify trends, sources of litter and take action to reduce it. Georg Hanke from European Commission Joint Research Centre, Institute for Environment and Sustainability admitted that the need of quantitative data of marine litter, which is qualitative controlled and comparable, is urgent.



Jessica Ångström speaks for MARLIN





➤ Plastic became one of the main topics of the conference, as the first results of litter monitoring shows great proportion of this litter type – around 50%. Kristīna Veidemane from Baltic Environmental Forum presented a case study from Riga on the plastic cycle and its loopholes in the European regional seas. MARLIN coordinator in Latvia Jānis Ulme highlighted the results of summer campaign in Latvia “My Baltic Sea” by making conclusion that the Baltic Sea has been drowning in the plastic right now.

Speakers of the 2nd International Conference:

MARLIN project leader - Jessica Ångström

MARLIN project coordinator in Latvia – Jānis Ulme

EU Joint Research Centre, Institute for Environment and Sustainability – Georg Hanke

Institute of Aquatic Ecology – Maija Balode

Baltic Environmental Forum – Kristīna Veidemane

“Let's do it” initiative – Laura Zvaigzne

One year of the beach litter monitoring



Within the Marlin project partner organizations have been monitoring beach litter for one year now.

The first results from 25 key areas show that the average number of litter are around 130 pieces per 100 meters.

Average numbers of beach litter in each country:

Estonia: 103.4 litter/100m

Sweden: 109.0 litter/100m

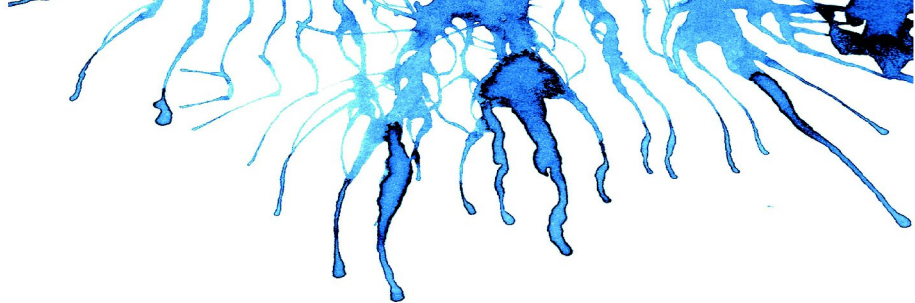
Latvia: 111.1 litter/100m

Finland: 221.2 litter/100m

Findings reveals that the key areas in Finland has twice as much litter than the other key areas which could be explained with the major shipping routes and a lot of visitors to the archipelago areas during the summer.



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MARLIN illuminates marine litter issues in Baltic Sea

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is currently being implemented in the member states around Europe in order to define and achieve a good environmental status in the European seas by 2020. One descriptor for defining GES is marine litter. At the latest meeting of MSFD GES Technical subgroup on marine litter in Bucharest, the **Marlin project was presented**. The countries around the Baltic Sea have not been very active in this work and find it crucial that the marine litter issues is acknowledge also in the Baltic Sea.

Litter and our imagination

During the summer of 2012 the MARLIN project has encouraged people around the Baltic Sea to document marine litter found on beaches.

To explore more marine litter from the Baltic Sea, please visit MARLIN's project website:

<http://www.projectmarlin.eu>



Coming up:

- “Keep the archipelago tidy” (KAT) announced photo exhibition “Touching the ground”, which will circulate various places in Finland during the year 2013. Photos were taken during the diving events in August-September. Photographer: Anna Liukas.
- Helsinki boat fair in February. This year’s theme is marine litter and waste management in KAT’s operating area.
- Next MARLIN’s partner meeting in Tallinn, March 2013.