

Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022



THE PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAS LOCAL EXPERIENCES ON PREVENTION AND MITIGATION ACTIONS AT THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS

Anastasia Charitou, Environmental Organisation iSea



Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas

- National Park of Delta Axios-Loudias-Aliakmon
- Wetland complex of 33,800 hectares
- More than 370 species of plants, 299 species of birds, 50 species of mammals, 27 species of amphibians and snakes, more than 50 species of fish
- Special Protected Area under the Birds Directive pSCI, Sites of Community Importance and Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive



**Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022**

Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas



- Most productive plains in Greece
- Stockbreeding
- Professional and recreational fishing
- **Mussel farming**



Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022

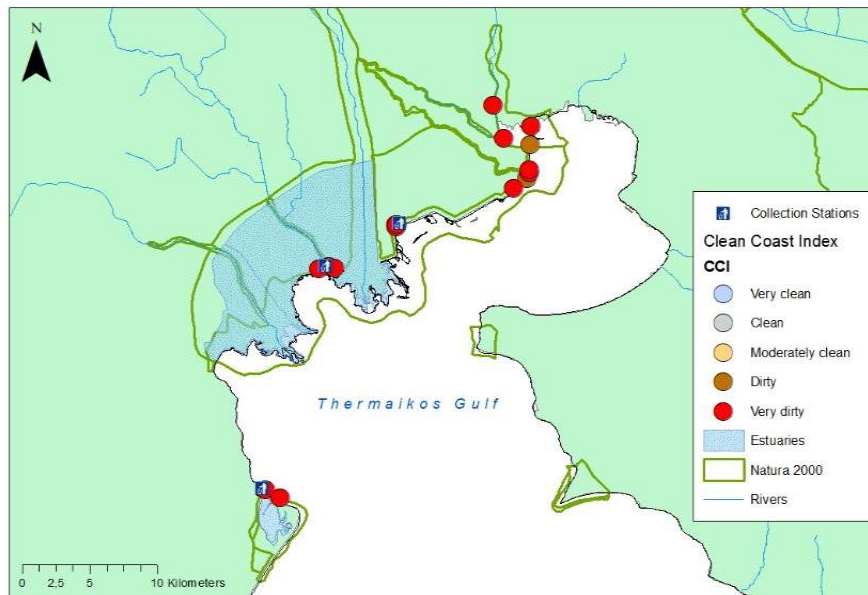
Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas

- Illegal fishing
- Overgrazing
- Illegal hunting
- Illegal sand extraction
- Illegal logging
- Water pollution
- **Illegal dumping of solid waste**



Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022

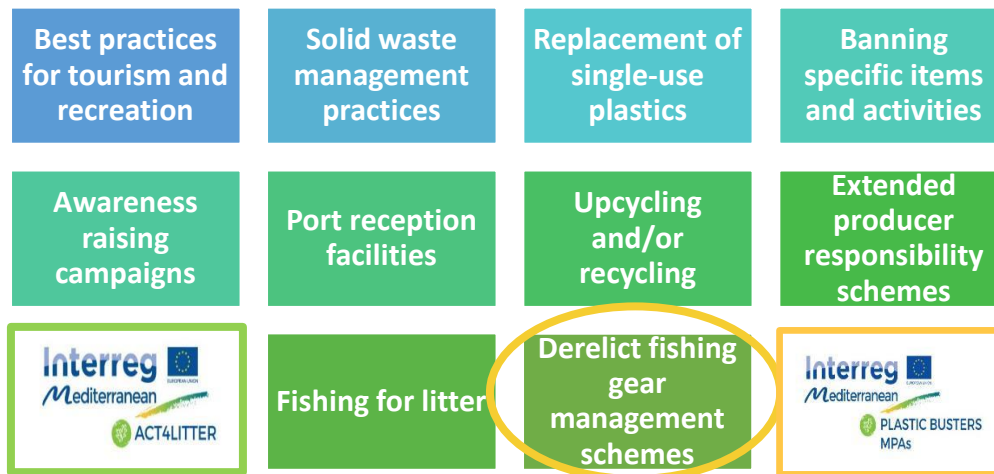
Litter issue in Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas



	ITEM	%
1	Mussels nets, Oyster nets	21
2	Plastic pieces 2.5 cm > < 50cm	16,2
3	Plastic strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm)	12,6
4	Plastic drink bottles >0.5l	5,2
5	Cigarette butts and filters	4,7
6	Plastic cups and cup lids	4,2
7	Glass drink bottles <=0,5l	4
8	Polystyrene pieces 2,5cm > < 50cm	3,9
9	Plastic pieces >50cm	3,6
10	Plastic ropes (diameter more than 1cm)	3,4



Actions to address marine litter



Priority measure within the 'Action Plan for Marine Litter in Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas' that was developed by the Management Authority of Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas within the framework of the Interreg Med ACT4LITTER project, under the guidance of MIO-ECSDE



Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022

The Marine Litter Action Plan of Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas

A measure that refers to the involvement of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the collection and proper management of abandoned, lost and discarded derelict fishing gear (ALDFG)

4. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON MARINE LITTER IN THE THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS

The Thermaikos Gulf team join the ACT4LITTER Marine Litter Watch Month. The one-month pilot beach survey deployed a harmonised monitoring approach by applying the attached protocol prepared by MIO-ECSDE in cooperation with others within the framework of the IPA-Adriatic DeFishGear project, in accordance with the guidelines the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive Marine Litter Technical Group and the UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan - MEDPOL. Alyki Kitrous Beach was selected taking into consideration certain criteria. The Items found in the sampling unit were classified by type according to the 'Master List' and accordingly entered in the 'Beach Litter Monitoring Sheet' (Annex II). According to the results the main type of litter found on the beach was artificial polymer materials (drink bottles, mussel nets, polystyrene pieces, other plastic pieces etc.)

5. PRIORITY ACTIONS TO COMBAT MARINE LITTER IN THE THERMAIKOS GULF PROTECTED AREAS

In this section, the priority actions agreed to be undertaken by the Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas Management Authority are presented in the format of a table. Each action is featured with a number, a description, the target group, the expected results, the lead and those who should be involved in the implementation, a timeframe and performance indicators (used to measure achievement of outputs or outcomes).

Number	A1
Title	RAISING THE AWARENESS OF MUSSEL FARMERS, FISHERMEN AND OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ON THE MARINE LITTER ISSUE AND PROMOTING CORRESPONSIBILITY

Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022



The aquaculture sectors in the collection and proper management of ALDFG

Lines of actions:

- Monitor and assess the presence of ALDFG
- Promote best practices among the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the proper collection and management of ALDFG
- Setup a derelict fishing gear management scheme and install collection stations in selected sites
- Organize stakeholder engagement and awareness raising activities targeted also to the local communities



Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022

The aquaculture sectors in the collection and proper management of ALDFG

Target groups:

- Mussel farmers, professional and recreational fishermen
- Port authorities, local authorities and other competent authorities
- NGOs and associations
- Citizens
- Media



Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022

The demo's impact

- 22 tons of abandoned mussel nets removed and recycled
- 2 local Municipalities
- 3 local mussel farmers and fishers associations
- Region of Central Macedonia



Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022

DGF treatment



- Mechanical recycling



Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022



BLUECYCLE

Establishing a derelict fishing gear management scheme



- Collection stations in Chalastra fishing port and Loudias estuary
- Separated collection of mussel nets in Pidna-Kolindros Municipality, Pieria, in order for mussel nets to be transported to the Municipality' s transshipment point



Lessons learned

- Collaboration
- Bottom up approaches
- Involvement of all relevant stakeholders
- Key stakeholders provide valuable information



**Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022**

Lessons learned

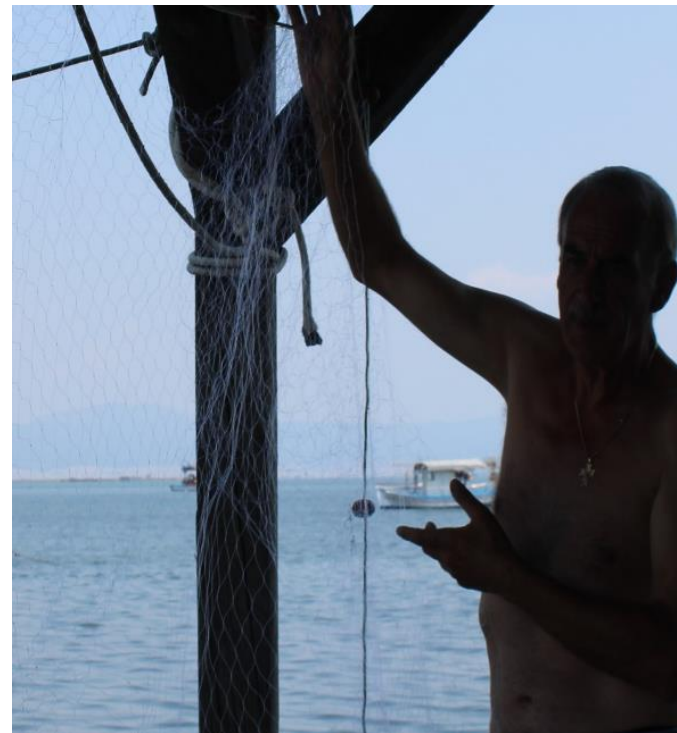
- Storage and transportation of the materials collected
- Bureaucracy issues decelerating the actions
- Conflict of interests



**Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022**

Opportunities

- Local Memorandum of Understanding to improve governance in the area through participatory processes in the context of Tune-Up Interreg Med Project
- Common collaboration agreement for the establishment and the improvement of the management scheme
- Participation of research centers for compensatory scientific advice
- Possibility of testing replacement with brand new biodegradable and compostable biopolymer (BP) in the context of Life Muscles Project
- Assessment of the abundance of microplastic in sediments of Thermaikos Gulf beaches



**Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022**



Plastic Busters MPAs Final Conference
Athens, 12-13 April 2022



Thank you!

anastasia.xaritou@isea.com.gr



www.plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu



@PlasticB_MPs



@PlasticBustersMPAs

