

The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College
in the University of Toronto presents the

2018 Charlevoix G7 Final Compliance Report

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in *G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit*

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16. Environment: Marine Litter

“Further, we will promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.”

Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.63	

Background

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), “marine litter” is defined as “any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment. Marine litter consists of items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded into the sea or rivers or on beaches; brought indirectly to the sea with rivers, sewage, stormwater or winds; accidentally lost, including material lost at sea in bad weather (fishing gear, cargo); or deliberately left by people on beaches and shores.”³⁵¹¹ Examples of marine litter include marine debris, anthropogenic underwater noise, accumulated physical waste and more.³⁵¹² The issue of marine litter affects coastal biodiversity, marine life, and ecosystems, all of which directly influence human well-being. Thus, actions to prevent and address waste in oceans have been undertaken by the G7 members since previous commitments, such as that made in the communiqué adopted at the G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting.³⁵¹³

Marine litter is included in target 14.1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The target states: “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.”³⁵¹⁴ Similarly, this timeline and goal are found in paragraph 163 of the Rio+20 Declaration adopted in 2013.³⁵¹⁵

³⁵¹¹ Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, UNEP (Nairobi) April 2009. Access Date: 27 August 2018.

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/10744/MarineLitterAglobalChallenge.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

³⁵¹² Recommendation Adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, UNEP (Nairobi) 3 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-20/sbstta-20-rec-05-en.pdf>

³⁵¹³ Communiqué G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 May 2016. Access Date: 31 August 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2016-environment.html>

³⁵¹⁴ Sustainable Development Goal 14, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (New York) Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>

³⁵¹⁵ Future We Want — Outcome Document, Sustainable Development Knowledge Network (New York) 27 July 2012. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

In the context of the G7, the agenda of protecting marine environments can be traced back to the Elmau summit in 2015, under Germany's G7 presidency.³⁵¹⁶ One of the outcomes of the Elmau summit was the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, which can be found in the annex of the Leaders' Declaration published on 8 June 2015.³⁵¹⁷ The Leaders' Declaration itself also acknowledges the global challenge posed by marine litter, and commits to "priority actions and solutions to combat marine litter ... stressing the need to address land- and sea-based sources, removal actions, as well as education, research, and outreach."³⁵¹⁸

On 25-26 January 2016, the Japanese G7 presidency hosted a G7 workshop in Tokyo titled "Standardization and Harmonization of Marine Litter Monitoring."³⁵¹⁹ The workshop aimed to foster agreement and identify gaps regarding methods and metrics applied to monitor marine litter among G7 members.³⁵²⁰ The workshop hosted scientific and environmental experts, as well as representatives from the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Japan.³⁵²¹

On 27 May 2016, the G7 summit in Japan produced the Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration. The document reaffirmed the G7's commitment to "address marine litter, recognizing that our efforts on resource efficiency and the 3Rs also contribute to the prevention and reduction of marine litter, particularly plastic, from land-based sources."³⁵²² In the same summit cycle, the Toyama environment ministers' meeting similarly acknowledged the need for climate adaptation in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.³⁵²³ The Toyama meeting also reaffirmed the importance of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, recalling the outcomes of the Elmau summit.

On 15-17 May 2017, under the Italian G7 presidency, the Tsukuba communiqué produced at the G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting referred to the issue of marine litter in the context of further research.³⁵²⁴ The document "reaffirmed the importance of our scientific work to better understand the extent and impacts of marine litter," and the language of this commitment was echoed at the Charlevoix summit via the commitment analyzed by this report.³⁵²⁵

³⁵¹⁶ Report from the 10th Meeting of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter (TGML), European Commission — Directorate-General Joint Research Centre — Institute for Environment and Sustainability (Palermo) 6-7 April 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018.

http://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/TG_ML_Meeting/MSFD_TGMarine_Litter_meetingminutesPalermo.pdf

³⁵¹⁷ Annex to the Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 July 2018.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-annex-en.pdf>

³⁵¹⁸ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 July 2018.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

³⁵¹⁹ G7 Marine Litter Workshop, NOAA Office of response and Restoration (Tokyo) 5 February 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/media/g7-marine-litter-workshop.html>

³⁵²⁰ G7 Marine Litter Workshop, NOAA Office of response and Restoration (Tokyo) 5 February 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/media/g7-marine-litter-workshop.html>

³⁵²¹ G7 Marine Litter Workshop, NOAA Office of response and Restoration (Tokyo) 5 February 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/media/g7-marine-litter-workshop.html>

³⁵²² G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

³⁵²³ G7 Environment Ministers Communiqué, Toyama Meeting, United Nations Climate Change (Toyama) 17 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://unfccc.int/news/g7-environment-ministers-communiqué-toyama-meeting>

³⁵²⁴ Tsukuba Communiqué, G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting (Tsukuba) 17 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/others/20160517communiqué.pdf>

³⁵²⁵ Tsukuba Communiqué, G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting (Tsukuba) 17 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/others/20160517communiqué.pdf>

On 20-21 April 2017, the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea co-hosted a Workshop on Marine Litter with UNEP and the Mediterranean Action Plan.³⁵²⁶ The workshop discussed methods to implement the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, as well as aspects of the issue area such as pollution of coastlines and ocean floors, sustainable growth, recycling culture, fisheries industries, best practices nationally and regionally, and monitoring systems.³⁵²⁷ This workshop also produced a report titled “Mainstreaming the Work of the Regional Seas Programmes Towards the Better Implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the Achievement of Global Commitments on Marine Litter.”³⁵²⁸

On 20 April 2017, Italy hosted a G7 workshop on the topic of marine litter in Rome. The workshop was titled “Actions and Strategies on Harmonization of Monitoring Procedures of Microplastics in the Ocean — A Cooperation Programme for Pursuing the Accuracy of Data.”³⁵²⁹ This workshop hosted representatives from the Office of Marine Environment in the Japanese Ministry of the Environment. The event emphasized the collective pledge reached at the Toyoma environmental ministers’ meeting, which commits the G7 to reduce marine litter by taking action to collect and remove plastics before they degrade into micro-plastics.³⁵³⁰

On 9 June 2018, at the Charlevoix summit in Canada, the majority of G7 members agreed and signed on to the Ocean Plastics Charter.³⁵³¹ This Charter emerged out of an ambitious commitment to combat marine waste by endorsing a zero-plastics waste model. However, this document was not joined by the United States and Japan.³⁵³²

Marine litter is key to ocean health, which is one of the core summit priorities of the Charlevoix 2018 summit under the Canadian presidency.³⁵³³ The issue of marine litter is not only vital for marine sustainability and human health — but it is also closely related to transitions to circular economies and sustainable development.

³⁵²⁶ G7 Workshop on Marine Litter, Italian G7 Presidency 2017 (Rome) 21 April 2018. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<http://www.g7italy.it/en/news/g7-workshop-marine-litter>

³⁵²⁷ G7 Workshop on Marine Litter, Italian G7 Presidency 2017 (Rome) 21 April 2018. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<http://www.g7italy.it/en/news/g7-workshop-marine-litter>

³⁵²⁸ Mainstreaming the Work of the Regional Seas Programmes Towards the Better Implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the Achievement of Global Commitments on Marine Litter, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Rome) 21 April 2017. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/Background_Document_ML_FINALE.pdf

³⁵²⁹ Actions and Strategies on Harmonization of Monitoring Procedures of Microplastics in the Ocean — A Cooperation Programme for Pursuing the Accuracy of Data, Office of Marine Environment — Ministry of the Environment, Japan (Rome) 20 April 2017. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/g7_ml_presentation_Japan.pdf

³⁵³⁰ Actions and Strategies on Harmonization of Monitoring Procedures of Microplastics in the Ocean — A Cooperation Programme for Pursuing the Accuracy of Data, Office of Marine Environment — Ministry of the Environment, Japan (Rome) 20 April 2017. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/g7_ml_presentation_Japan.pdf

³⁵³¹ Annex: G7 Ocean Plastics Charter, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html#annex>

³⁵³² Annex: G7 Ocean Plastics Charter, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html#annex>

³⁵³³ Canada’s G7 Themes, G7 2018 Charlevoix (Ottawa) 14 December 2017. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/>

Commitment Features

At the Charlevoix summit, G7 leaders pledged to “promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.”

This excerpt from the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities is identified as a commitment because the term “promote” indicates the G7’s collective intention to impose politically binding obligations on G7 members to change or improve their behavior in this issue area. “Promote” is understood as actions that “support or renew old efforts or create new efforts in the area. It should not have to be a brand new initiative. To contribute to growth or prosperity of, to help bring into being.”³⁵³⁴

This commitment contains two parts: 1) “the promotion of harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter,” and 2) the promotion of “collaboration on research on the impacts of marine litter, in cooperation with institutions such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).”

The first part of the commitment requires G7 members to promote ventures and efforts to harmonize various approaches to marine litter. “Harmonization” is defined as making diverging actions consistent and/or compatible. In the context of this commitment, “harmonization” requires G7 members to collaborate and standardize or coordinate respective national and regional approaches to marine litter.

Moreover, “monitoring methodologies” is defined as a body of methods, rules, or procedures that enable observations of a particular biological condition. In this commitment, “monitoring methodologies for marine litter” refer to the act of overseeing marine health by assessing waste accumulation in oceans and coastal environments. Such methodologies refer to actions such as standardized measurement, evaluation, and reporting on the indicators, types, impacts, sources, and quantities of marine debris.³⁵³⁵ Technical examples of monitoring technologies include but are not limited to: visual observation and survey of sea surfaces, trawl surveys of the sea floor, or studies of marine litter as ingested by marine animal species.³⁵³⁶

To fulfill the first part of the commitment, G7 members must engage in transboundary cooperation to align their policies and actions regarding marine litter, either through existing initiatives or the creation of new programs. Such actions must be specific regarding the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter, rather than for marine litter more generally.

The second part of this commitment requires the G7 member to promote collaborative research on the impacts and consequences of marine litter. Partners of such collaboration can refer to but are not limited to, the international community or various organs of the public and private sector. To achieve compliance in this part of the commitment, the G7 member must both demonstrate efforts to expand its investigative endeavors and specifically strive to do so in the context of partnerships, with priority given to collaboration with the UN Environment Programme as identified in the commitment.

³⁵³⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 27 August 2018.

³⁵³⁵ Methodologies for Monitoring Marine Litter in the Coastal and Marine Environment, SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism (Alger) 7-8 November 2017. Access Date: 27 August 2018. <https://www.swim-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Marine-litter-monitoring-methodologies.pdf>

³⁵³⁶ Methodologies for Monitoring Marine Litter in the Coastal and Marine Environment, SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism (Alger) 7-8 November 2017. Access Date: 27 August 2018. <https://www.swim-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Marine-litter-monitoring-methodologies.pdf>

“Cooperation” is defined as “the action or process of working together to the same end.”³⁵³⁷ “Collaboration on research” is understood as working jointly with other institutions to investigate, experiment, or collect information with the purpose of discovering and interpreting facts and trends. “Impact” is defined as the “marked effect or influence” resulting from a particular phenomenon. Thus, research conducted by G7 members must include reference to the impacts of marine litter, ie. it cannot focus exclusively on the causes of marine litter without consideration of outcomes.

UNEP is listed as a notable example of a facilitative partner for collaborative research. UN Environment, or UNEP, is a United Nations agency that serves as the “leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.”³⁵³⁸ According to the text of the commitment, the UNEP is an example rather than a definitive part of compliance, as evident by the term “for example” in the text of the commitment. Working with the UNEP is an encouraged but not necessary part of full compliance.

In order to fulfill the second part of the commitment, the G7 member must advance research and innovation about the consequences of marine litter in collaboration with other institutions. This means that unilateral or independent research within a G7 member about the impacts of marine litter does not count towards compliance.

Thus, to achieve full compliance, the G7 member must have worked with other actors to reinforce or initiate the harmonization of monitoring procedures regarding marine waste, while also collaborating with other institutions to develop further research on the implications of marine litter. Successful implementation of both parts to this commitment will result in a score of +1 for full compliance. This commitment emphasizes the exchange and growth of information and innovation, rather than referring to unilateral government action to combat marine litter.

Partial compliance is scored when the G7 member has either fulfilled the former or latter half of the commitment. This means that the G7 member has either successfully implemented its actions to promote the harmonization of monitoring technologies or foster collaborative research. G7 members will receive a score of -1 for non-compliance if they have not successfully promoted the harmonization of monitoring methodologies, nor collaboration on research and cooperation.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does NOT promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter NOR promotes collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.
0	The G7 member promotes the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter OR promotes collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.
+1	The G7 member promotes the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter AND promotes collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

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³⁵³⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 27 August 2018.

³⁵³⁸ About UN Environment, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 27 August 2018.

<https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate this work.

On 10 June 2018, Canada announced that it will invest CAD100 million through a marine litter mitigation fund that aims to prevent plastic waste from entering the oceans, address plastic waste on shorelines, and better manage existing plastic resources. Canada committed to further investing CAD162 million towards building stronger and more resilient coasts and communities.³⁵³⁹

On 16 June 2018, Canada attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.³⁵⁴⁰ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States.³⁵⁴¹

On 27 June 2018, the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau announced that Canada will invest CAD228.79 million in the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF is a partnership for international cooperation that involves 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector, working to address global environmental issues such as the protection of large marine ecosystems.³⁵⁴²

From 19 to 21 September 2018, under its G7 presidency, Canada co-hosted a two-day G7 joint ministerial session in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities. Canada committed to investing up to CAD11.6 million in combatting illegal and unregulated fishing, diverting at least 75 percent of plastic waste from government operations by 2030, and reducing ghost gear, which is found in all three of Canada's coastlines.^{3543,3544}

On 1 October 2018, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement's (CUSMA) environmental chapter invoked trilateral action to address marine pollution and illegal fishing. The agreement also

³⁵³⁹ Working together on climate change, oceans, and clean energy, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 10 June 2018. Access Date: 11 September 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/06/10/working-together-climate-change-oceans-and-clean-energy>.

³⁵⁴⁰ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

³⁵⁴¹ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

³⁵⁴² Canada announces support to Global Environment Facility to advance climate action in developing countries, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2018. Access Date: 11 September 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/06/canada-announces-support-to-global-environment-facility-to-advance-climate-action-in-developing-countries.html>.

³⁵⁴³ Canada joins the fight against ghost gear, World Animal Protection (Halifax) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.worldanimalprotection.ca/news/canada-joins-fight-against->.

³⁵⁴⁴ Canada's Environment, Oceans and Energy Ministers announce concrete action to advance economic progress through healthy, sustainable oceans at G7 Ministerial Meeting, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2018/09/canadas-environment-oceans-and-energy-ministers-announce-concrete-action-to-advance-economic-progress-through-healthy-sustainable-oceans-at-g7-mini.html>.

introduced new articles to reduce marine litter and a binding agreement on banning shark finning — a first for Canada.³⁵⁴⁵

From 1 to 31 October 2018, the government concluded its month-long participation in the first-ever global action aimed at combating maritime pollution crime, entitled Operation 30 Days at Sea. Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada provided aerial surveillance technologies that permitted authorities to detect maritime offences.³⁵⁴⁶

On 3 October 2018, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson announced that Canada signed an international agreement along with Japan, the United States, and the European Union, to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas of the central Arctic Ocean. The agreement will provide frameworks to establish conservation and measures to manage and better monitor Arctic Ocean ecosystems, in an effort to make future commercial fishing activities more sustainable.³⁵⁴⁷ The parties involved will also commence a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring to oversee the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean.³⁵⁴⁸

On 13 October 2018, Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories Michael McLeod announced an investment of CAD19.5 million under the Oceans Protection Plan. This fund will construct four double-hulled barges to minimize the risk of a fuel spill and seek to improve the safety of community supply operations to protect Canada's coasts and waterways.³⁵⁴⁹

On 14 November 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, issued a joint statement on marine litter and plastics. The statement recognized the importance of adopting a lifecycle approach to managing and reducing plastics and protecting oceans. Both countries forged a partnership to combat marine litter by facilitating the sharing of best practices and technologies to prevent plastic pollution in Canadian and Chinese coastal cities.³⁵⁵⁰

On 15 November 2018, the government announced renewed infrastructure investments to the Canadian Coast Guard operations in Saint John. These investments include a 15-year lease for a new Integrated Services Centre and a helicopter hanger, aimed at supporting more efficient marine

³⁵⁴⁵ USMCA — Environment Chapter Summary (Ottawa) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <http://international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/usmca-aeumc/enviro.aspx?lang=eng>.

³⁵⁴⁶ First global multi-agency operation highlights widespread marine pollution crime (Lyon) 13 November 2018. Access Date: 22 November 2018. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/first-global-multi-agency-operation-highlights-widespread-marine>.

³⁵⁴⁷ International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean (Ottawa) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/international/arctic-arctique-eng.htm>.

³⁵⁴⁸ EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas — Frequently Asked Questions, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas-%E2%80%93-frequently_en

³⁵⁴⁹ Government of Canada delivers marine safety training and barges to Northern communities through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Hay River) 13 October 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2018/10/government-of-canada-delivers-marine-safety-training-and-barges-to-northern-communities-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

³⁵⁵⁰ Joint Statement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Marine Litter and Plastics, Prime Minister of Canada (Singapore) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/14/joint-statement-between-government-canada-and-government-peoples-republic-china>.

navigation monitoring and providing storage space for environmental response equipment in the case of marine pollution.³⁵⁵¹

From 26-28 November 2018, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson co-hosted the first-ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference with Kenya and Japan. At the conference, Canada announced funding for the World Economic Forum's Friends of Ocean Action and the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean. The funding will be allocated to the sustainable use and conservation of ocean and marine resources, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.³⁵⁵²

On 28 November 2018, the government provided CAD2.5 million to four British Columbia coastal communities to increase the availability of maritime data as a part of Canada's Oceans Protection Plan initiative. The new maritime awareness system will improve access and expand maritime data to indigenous peoples and coastal communities.³⁵⁵³

On 7 December 2018, Transport Canada announced that it will assist the Government of Nunavut by contributing to two marine safety infrastructure projects with the goal of making Arctic resupply operations safer and more efficient for remote communities. These investments are a part of the CAD94.3 million Safety Equipment and Basic Marine Infrastructure in Northern Communities Initiative under the Oceans Protection Plan and strives to deliver a safer marine system to respond to and prevent pollution incidents.³⁵⁵⁴

On 10 January 2019, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson announced CAD12.6 million in funding over four years for Ocean Networks Canada, a national ocean observation system in Victoria.³⁵⁵⁵ The investment will strengthen ocean noise monitoring programs and expand monitoring of sea pollution and surface currents in Pacific waters.³⁵⁵⁶

³⁵⁵¹ Government of Canada announces renewed infrastructure for the Canadian Coast Guard in Saint John, Government of Canada (Saint John) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 22 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2018/11/government-of-canada-announces-renewed-infrastructure-for-the-canadian-coast-guard-in-saint-john.html>.

³⁵⁵² Statement by the Prime Minister on the Sustainable Blue Economy, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 28 November 2018. Access Date: 1 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/28/statement-prime-minister-sustainable-blue-economy-conference>.

³⁵⁵³ Government of Canada provides over \$2.5 million to four British Columbia coastal communities to increase availability of maritime data, Government of Canada (Victoria) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2018/11/government-of-canada-provides-over-25-million-to-four-british-columbia-coastal-communities-to-increase-availability-of-maritime-data.html>.

³⁵⁵⁴ Government of Canada delivers marine safety infrastructure to Nunavut through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-delivers-marine-safety-infrastructure-to-nunavut-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

³⁵⁵⁵ Government of Canada announces investments to monitor Canada's marine environments and for new science facility, Government of Canada (Victoria) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/01/government-of-canada-announces-investments-to-monitor-canadas-marine-environments-and-for-new-science-facility.html>.

³⁵⁵⁶ Government of Canada announces investments to monitor Canada's marine environments and for new science facility, Government of Canada (Victoria) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/01/government-of-canada-announces-investments-to-monitor-canadas-marine-environments-and-for-new-science-facility.html>.

On 7 February 2019, the government of Canada unveiled its 2019 plan for the protection of North Atlantic right whales.³⁵⁵⁷ The plan addresses two major threats: vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear.³⁵⁵⁸ The government aims to address marine litter issues by minimizing the amount of rope in water, tracking buoys and improving reporting of lost fishing gear.³⁵⁵⁹

On 8 February 2019, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson announced a new policy to curb plastic pollution in Canadian oceans by setting explicit targets for diverting plastic waste and eliminating the use of single-use plastics in government operations.³⁵⁶⁰ This builds on Canada's commitment to divert at least 75% of non-hazardous operational waste, including plastic, by 2030.³⁵⁶¹

On 14 February 2019, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson announced the launch of the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk.³⁵⁶² The fund consists of a CAD4 million investment paid over five years to support the recovery of aquatic species at risk.³⁵⁶³ The investment aims to address two priority marine threats: fishing interactions with entanglements such as marine litter and curbing marine noise.³⁵⁶⁴

On 28 February 2019, on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Member of Parliament for Cumberland–Colchester Bill Casey announced that the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq would receive CAD1.2 million over four years under the Oceans Protection Plan to restore coastal habitats along the Northumberland Strait.³⁵⁶⁵ The investment will help restore

³⁵⁵⁷ Government of Canada unveils its 2019 plan for protecting North Atlantic right whales, Government of Canada (Shippagan) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-unveils-its-2019-plan-for-protecting-north-atlantic-right-whales.html>.

³⁵⁵⁸ Government of Canada unveils its 2019 plan for protecting North Atlantic right whales, Government of Canada (Shippagan) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-unveils-its-2019-plan-for-protecting-north-atlantic-right-whales.html>.

³⁵⁵⁹ Government of Canada unveils its 2019 plan for protecting North Atlantic right whales, Government of Canada (Shippagan) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-unveils-its-2019-plan-for-protecting-north-atlantic-right-whales.html>.

³⁵⁶⁰ Curbing plastic pollution in our oceans: Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard take action, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/curbing-plastic-pollution-in-our-oceans-fisheries-and-oceans-and-the-canadian-coast-guard-take-action.html>.

³⁵⁶¹ Curbing plastic pollution in our oceans: Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard take action, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/curbing-plastic-pollution-in-our-oceans-fisheries-and-oceans-and-the-canadian-coast-guard-take-action.html>.

³⁵⁶² The Government of Canada takes action to protect aquatic species at risk (Maple Ridge) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/the-government-of-canada-takes-action-to-protect-aquatic-species-at-risk.html>.

³⁵⁶³ The Government of Canada takes action to protect aquatic species at risk (Maple Ridge) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/the-government-of-canada-takes-action-to-protect-aquatic-species-at-risk.html>.

³⁵⁶⁴ The Government of Canada takes action to protect aquatic species at risk (Maple Ridge) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/the-government-of-canada-takes-action-to-protect-aquatic-species-at-risk.html>.

³⁵⁶⁵ Government of Canada makes a significant investment in the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq through the Oceans Protection Plan (Halifax) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-makes-a-significant-investment-in-the-confederacy-of-mainland-mikmaq-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

coastal landscape by deploying artificial reefs and removing litter to enable the growth of seaweeds and other marine plants.³⁵⁶⁶

From 5 to 6 May 2019, Canada participated in the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Metz, where France and the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan presented the “G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions Workshop.”³⁵⁶⁷ Attendees concluded that cooperation with regional fisheries organizations and knowledge-sharing of best practices are necessary to address marine litter.³⁵⁶⁸ This workshop advances the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.³⁵⁶⁹

On 7 May 2019, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson announced that the Maliseet National Conservation Council will receive more than CAD400,000 over four years to help restore deteriorated marine ecosystems and coastal habitats in Saint John, New Brunswick.³⁵⁷⁰

On 8 May 2019, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson announced CAD1.8 million over three years to restore watersheds and coastal habitats in Eastern Nova Scotia under the Oceans Protection Plan.³⁵⁷¹ The project aims to improve and clean the aquatic habitat for species that rely on the coast’s freshwater.³⁵⁷²

On 10 May 2019, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport Terry Beech announced enhanced measures for the protection of British Columbia’s Southern Resident killer whales.³⁵⁷³ The enhanced measures

³⁵⁶⁶ Government of Canada makes a significant investment in the Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq through the Oceans Protection Plan (Halifax) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-makes-a-significant-investment-in-the-confederacy-of-mainland-mikmaq-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

³⁵⁶⁷ G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis, France 24 (Paris) 5 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190505-g7-environment-ministers-meet-discuss-climate-crisis>.

³⁵⁶⁸ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁵⁶⁹ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁵⁷⁰ Government of Canada makes significant investments in coastal research and restoration in New Brunswick through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Moncton) 7 May 2019. Access Date: 27 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-makes-significant-investments-in-coastal-research-and-restoration-in-new-brunswick-through-the-oceans-protection-pla.html>.

³⁵⁷¹ Government of Canada makes a significant investment in Eastern Nova Scotia through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Halifax) 8 May 2019. Access Date: 27 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-makes-a-significant-investment-in-eastern-nova-scotia-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

³⁵⁷² Government of Canada makes a significant investment in Eastern Nova Scotia through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Halifax) 8 May 2019. Access Date: 27 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-makes-a-significant-investment-in-eastern-nova-scotia-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

³⁵⁷³ Government of Canada announces enhanced measures for protecting British Columbia’s Southern Resident killer whales, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 10 May 2019. Access Date: 29 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-announces-enhanced-measures-for-protecting-british-columbias-southern-resident-killer-whales.html>.

were adopted based on consultations with indigenous communities, including reduced contaminants and noise pollution in the marine ecosystems affecting whales and their prey.³⁵⁷⁴

On 23 May 2019, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility Carla Qualtrough, on behalf of the Minister of Innovation Science and Economic Development, announced an investment of CAD2.1 million in Mangrove Water Technologies.³⁵⁷⁵ This funding for clean water technology will support zero discharge desalination technology, which will reduce the environmental impact of operations in the oil and gas sectors. This will result in cleaner air and water, as well as less marine pollution in the long term.³⁵⁷⁶

On 24 May 2019, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Member of Parliament for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles Linda Lapointe announced CAD150,000 in funding for KWI Polymers under the Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenge.³⁵⁷⁷ The objective of this funding is to develop innovative solutions for recycling fibreglass in order to prevent fibreglass from ending up in landfill or in the water.³⁵⁷⁸

On 27 May 2019, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson announced that the Governor General has granted changes to the Oceans Act and the Canada Petroleum Resources Act (Bill C-55).³⁵⁷⁹ These changes will empower the federal government to strengthen the protection of at-risk marine ecosystems by preventing new potentially detrimental activities and protecting oceans and coasts from environmental degradation.³⁵⁸⁰

On 29 May 2019, Canada ratified the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.³⁵⁸¹ The legally binding agreement prohibits commercial fishing in the high seas portion of the central Arctic Ocean for a period of at least 16 years after the agreement enters into

³⁵⁷⁴ Government of Canada announces enhanced measures for protecting British Columbia's Southern Resident killer whales, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 10 May 2019. Access Date: 29 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-announces-enhanced-measures-for-protecting-british-columbias-southern-resident-killer-whales.html>.

³⁵⁷⁵ Government of Canada invests in world-leading clean water technology, Government of Canada (Delta) 23 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-world-leading-clean-water-technology.html>.

³⁵⁷⁶ Government of Canada invests in world-leading clean water technology, Government of Canada (Delta) 23 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-world-leading-clean-water-technology.html>.

³⁵⁷⁷ New funding will support research to develop recycling solutions for fiberglass, Government of Canada (Boisbriand) 24 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2019/05/new-funding-will-support-research-to-develop-recycling-solutions-for-fiberglass.html>.

³⁵⁷⁸ New funding will support research to develop recycling solutions for fiberglass, Government of Canada (Boisbriand) 24 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2019/05/new-funding-will-support-research-to-develop-recycling-solutions-for-fiberglass.html>.

³⁵⁷⁹ Important Legislation to Protect Canada's Oceans & Coasts Receives Royal Assent, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/important-legislation-to-protect-canadas-oceans--coasts-receives-royal-assent.html>.

³⁵⁸⁰ Important Legislation to Protect Canada's Oceans & Coasts Receives Royal Assent, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/important-legislation-to-protect-canadas-oceans--coasts-receives-royal-assent.html>.

³⁵⁸¹ Canada ratifies landmark international agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in the central Arctic Ocean, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/canada-ratifies-landmark-international-agreement-to-prevent-unregulated-fishing-in-the-central-arctic-ocean.html>.

force.³⁵⁸² The agreement commits the signatories to a joint program of scientific research and pollution monitoring. The program's goal is to improve understanding of ecosystems in the central Arctic Ocean.³⁵⁸³

On 31 May 2019, the government of Canada invested CAD523,000 in scientific research at Dalhousie University to protect Canadian waters in the event of an oil spill.³⁵⁸⁴ The project will use advanced technology to remove oil from water with greater efficiency during cleanups. The project will also help identify and locate the spills to minimize its harm to the marine environment.³⁵⁸⁵

On 4 June 2019, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard announced further action to enhance aquaculture sustainability in British Columbia.³⁵⁸⁶ This includes the Framework for Aquaculture Risk Management and the Framework on the Transfer of Live Fish, both of which will grant greater efficiency to "decision-making processes on aquaculture."³⁵⁸⁷ These measures will reduce overfishing and marine pollution, and ensure that wild fish stocks are sustainable.³⁵⁸⁸

Canada has engaged in ambitious actions to support marine litter regulation through the GEF, CUSMA and the G7 environment ministerial meeting in Halifax. Canada has promoted the harmonization of monitoring methodologies by participating in relevant international discussions and enacting domestic initiatives. It has also sought to advance research and innovation about the consequences of marine litter in collaboration with other institutions and in multilateral forums. Therefore, by addressing marine litter, Canada's aforementioned actions align with its stated priorities at the Charlevoix summit and fully comply with this commitment.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analysts: David Manocchio and Jessy Singh

³⁵⁸² Canada ratifies landmark international agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in the central Arctic Ocean, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/canada-ratifies-landmark-international-agreement-to-prevent-unregulated-fishing-in-the-central-arctic-ocean.html>.

³⁵⁸³ Canada ratifies landmark international agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in the central Arctic Ocean, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 31 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/canada-ratifies-landmark-international-agreement-to-prevent-unregulated-fishing-in-the-central-arctic-ocean.html>.

³⁵⁸⁴ Government of Canada supports important spill research at Dalhousie University, Government of Canada (Halifax) 31 May 2019. Access Date: 3 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-supports-important-spill-research-at-dalhousie-university.html>.

³⁵⁸⁵ Government of Canada supports important spill research at Dalhousie University, Government of Canada (Halifax) 31 May 2019. Access Date: 3 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-supports-important-spill-research-at-dalhousie-university.html>.

³⁵⁸⁶ Government of Canada takes further action to enhance aquaculture sustainability in British Columbia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 04 June 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/06/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-enhance-aquaculture-sustainability-in-british-columbia.html>.

³⁵⁸⁷ Government of Canada takes further action to enhance aquaculture sustainability in British Columbia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 04 June 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/06/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-enhance-aquaculture-sustainability-in-british-columbia.html>.

³⁵⁸⁸ Government of Canada takes further action to enhance aquaculture sustainability in British Columbia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 04 June 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/06/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-enhance-aquaculture-sustainability-in-british-columbia.html>.

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

On 16 June 2018, France attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.³⁵⁸⁹ A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as Italy, Japan, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.³⁵⁹⁰ The French Institute for Exploration of the Sea edited and oversaw the publication of a conference report on the impact of marine litter and the conference discussions about the development of harmonized monitoring protocols.³⁵⁹¹ The French Institute for Exploration of the Sea is a national government advisory agency as classified by the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.³⁵⁹²

On 4 July 2018, Minister of State for Ecological and Solidarity Transition Nicolas Hulot presented the Biodiversity Plan. This plan aims to develop an ambitious European and international roadmap for biodiversity through actions such as supporting the European-level ban on 12 single-use plastic products frequently found on coasts and at sea.³⁵⁹³

On 1 August 2018, Secretary of State to the Minister of State for the Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition Brune Poirson announced the launch of “Mission Océans.” This project aims to identify the substances of utmost concern to marine ecosystems and coral reefs and propose appropriate regulatory measures to protect oceans from waste and pollution.³⁵⁹⁴

On 19 October 2018, the Office of the General Commissioner of Sustainable Development hosted a meeting on “Microplastics: from invisible pollution to a global challenge,” featuring Pascale Fabre, a researcher at the Charles Coulomb laboratory at the University of Montpellier.³⁵⁹⁵ Fabre discussed research and consumer-based and institutional actions for the future.

On 6 December 2018, UNEP and the World Resources Institute, with the support of France, released a report on single-use plastics regarding regulation of manufacturing, distribution, usage, and

³⁵⁸⁹ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

³⁵⁹⁰ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

³⁵⁹¹ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

³⁵⁹² National Government Agencies Links, Oceans and Law of the Sea, United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations (Brussels) Access Date: 16 September 2018. <http://www.un.org/depts/los/Links/Gov-Agency.htm>.

³⁵⁹³ Nicolas Hulot presents the Biodiversity Plan on the occasion of the first interdepartmental committee for biodiversity, Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 11 September 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/nicolas-hulot-presente-plan-biodiversite-occasion-du-premier-comite-interministeriel-biodiversite>.

³⁵⁹⁴ Ocean and coral reef pollution: Brown Poirson tackles chemicals and plastics, Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 11 September 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/pollution-des-oceans-et-des-recifs-coralliens-brune-poirson-sattaque-aux-substances-chimiques-et-aux>.

³⁵⁹⁵ Les rencontres de la recherche. Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 17 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/rencontres-recherche>.

disposal in G7 members and other countries.³⁵⁹⁶ The report notes that regulations regarding plastic bags have been enacted by 66 percent of countries globally, while regulatory bans on microbeads have only been enacted by 4 percent of countries worldwide.³⁵⁹⁷

On 10 December 2018, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity established the France Ocean Committee, which will propose recommendations on marine litter and marine biodiversity conservation.³⁵⁹⁸ The France Ocean Committee is comprised of non-governmental organizations working in the field of marine environmental protection, marine administrative bodies, and resource management and public research institutions.³⁵⁹⁹ The committee will aid the National Council of the Sea and Coastal, the National Committee of Biodiversity, and the World Conservation Congress in 2020.³⁶⁰⁰

In early 2019, as co-chair of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), France spearheaded a report presented at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).³⁶⁰¹ This report, entitled “Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean,” is the basis for terms of reference with regards to the scientific monitoring of the world’s oceans plastic pollution.

In February 2019, France led the Joint Transnational Call on Next Generation Climate Science in Europe for Oceans through the European Joint Project Initiative (JPI) Oceans.³⁶⁰² This joint call seeks to use observations and Earth System Models to strengthen climate understanding, improve data analysis in Earth System Models, and improving ocean estimations.³⁶⁰³

On 21 February 2019, alongside various companies and NGOs, Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition Brune Poirson signed the National Pact on Plastic Packaging as an act of participation in the circular economy.³⁶⁰⁴ In signing the pact, signatories commit to reducing plastic waste, phasing out unnecessary packaging, recycling 60% of packaging by 2022,

³⁵⁹⁶ Legal Limits on Single-Use and Microplastics: A Global Review of National Laws and Regulations. United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27113/plastics_limits.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

³⁵⁹⁷ Legal Limits on Single-Use and Microplastics: A Global Review of National Laws and Regulations. United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27113/plastics_limits.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

³⁵⁹⁸ Lancement du Comité France Océan. Ministre de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 20 December 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/lancement-du-comite-france-ocean>.

³⁵⁹⁹ Lancement du Comité France Océan. Ministre de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 20 December 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/lancement-du-comite-france-ocean>.

³⁶⁰⁰ Lancement du Comité France Océan. Ministre de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 20 December 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/lancement-du-comite-france-ocean>.

³⁶⁰¹ Publications - Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean, GESAMP. 2019. Access Date: 21 August 2019. www.gesamp.org/publications/guidelines-for-the-monitoring-and-assessment-of-plastic-litter-in-the-ocean.

³⁶⁰² Climate change impact, JPI Oceans (Brussels) February 2019. Access Date: 21 August 2019. www.jpi-oceans.eu/climate-change-impact.

³⁶⁰³ Climate change impact, JPI Oceans (Brussels) February 2019. Access Date: 21 August 2019. www.jpi-oceans.eu/climate-change-impact.

³⁶⁰⁴ Signature of the "National Pact on Plastic Packaging". Ministre de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 27 February 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/signature-du-pacte-national-sur-emballages-plastiques>.

advancing innovations in packaging to make it “reusable, recyclable or 100% compostable by 2025,” and raising awareness on plastic pollution.³⁶⁰⁵

On 6 May 2019, France and the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan presented the “G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions Workshop” at the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Metz.³⁶⁰⁶ Attendees concluded that cooperation with regional fisheries organizations and knowledge-sharing of best practices are necessary to address marine litter.³⁶⁰⁷ This workshop advances the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.³⁶⁰⁸

On 4 June 2019, Prime Minister Edward Philippe and Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition Brune Poirson presented an anti-waste bill for a circular economy.³⁶⁰⁹ The bill includes four major sections: better information and consumption practices, combatting daily waste, reinforcement of the polluter pays principle, and strengthening the fight against plastic pollution.³⁶¹⁰

France has engaged in international cooperation to align its policies and actions with regards to marine litter, both through regional-level regulations and reporting on participation in conference discussions regarding harmonizing solutions. France has attempted to better regulate the consequences of marine litter, and sought to advance cooperative research and innovation on the impact of marine litter in collaboration with other institutions.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analysts: David Manocchio and Kelley Prendergast

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate this work.

On 16 June 2018, Germany attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.³⁶¹¹ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A

³⁶⁰⁵ Signature of the "National Pact on Plastic Packaging". Ministre de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 27 February 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/signature-du-pacte-national-sur-emballages-plastiques>.

³⁶⁰⁶ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶⁰⁷ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶⁰⁸ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶⁰⁹ Projet de loi anti-gaspillage pour une économie circulaire : mieux produire, mieux consommer, moins gaspiller. Ministre de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 7 June 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage>.

³⁶¹⁰ Projet de loi anti-gaspillage pour une économie circulaire : mieux produire, mieux consommer, moins gaspiller. Ministre de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 7 June 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage>.

³⁶¹¹ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States.³⁶¹²

On 5 September 2018, the government adopted a motion to promote the domestic development of cutting-edge technologies through a spending program that dedicates EUR15 billion in public investment to specific priority areas of research identified by Berlin.^{3613,3614} Research Minister Anja Karliczek highlighted the reduction of marine pollution as a focus of Germany's technological development.³⁶¹⁵

On 18 September 2018, at the G7 Environmental Ministerial Meeting in Halifax, Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze expressed her encouragement for the discovery of sustainable plastic life cycles and support for developing countries in their endeavors to do the same.³⁶¹⁶ The Minister stated her intention to launch joint measures that prevent and eradicate marine litter.³⁶¹⁷ She agreed that a circular economy is necessary to help reduce marine litter, and the life cycle of plastics must be addressed.³⁶¹⁸

On 29 October 2018, at the "Our Ocean Conference" in Indonesia, Germany committed USD8 million to 23 commitments that focus on supporting the conservation of marine biodiversity in Indonesia and the promotion of a blue economy, ocean monitoring and plastic pollution. Germany also committed USD6 million to increase its contribution to the Blue Action Fund, a fund that enhances marine protection.³⁶¹⁹

On 26 November 2018, Environment Minister Svenja Schulze announced a five-point plan to reduce the amount of plastic waste in oceans.³⁶²⁰ This plan includes initiatives to increase the number of recycling stations in Germany and create products using more sustainable materials.³⁶²¹

On 26 November 2018, the German government became an early donor to the PROBLUE, a new Umbrella Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) housed at the World Bank.³⁶²² This fund aims to

³⁶¹² Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

³⁶¹³ Germany to promote innovation with national research funding, Xinhua (Beijing) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/05/c_137447318.htm.

³⁶¹⁴ Germany to promote innovation with national research funding, Xinhua (Beijing) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/05/c_137447318.htm.

³⁶¹⁵ Germany to promote innovation with national research funding, Xinhua (Beijing) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/05/c_137447318.htm.

³⁶¹⁶ G7 environment ministers discuss measures to combat climate change, marine litter and resource inefficiency (Berlin) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g7-umweltministerinnen-und-minister-diskutieren-massnahmen-gegen-klimawandel-meeresmuell-und-ressour/>.

³⁶¹⁷ G7 environment ministers discuss measures to combat climate change, marine litter and resource inefficiency (Berlin) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g7-umweltministerinnen-und-minister-diskutieren-massnahmen-gegen-klimawandel-meeresmuell-und-ressour/>.

³⁶¹⁸ Chair's Summary: G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting (Halifax) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/g7-environment-ministers-meeting-chairs-summary/>.

³⁶¹⁹ Our Ocean Commitments, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Bali) 30 October 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://ourocean2018.org/?l=our-ocean-commitments>.

³⁶²⁰ How Germany's environment minister plans to turn Around plastic use, The Local (Berlin) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://www.thelocal.de/20181126/german-environment-minister-pushes-for-a-turnaround-in-plastic-use>.

³⁶²¹ How Germany's environment minister plans to turn Around plastic use, The Local (Berlin) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://www.thelocal.de/20181126/german-environment-minister-pushes-for-a-turnaround-in-plastic-use>.

support healthy and productive oceans and is a part of the World Bank's overall Blue Economy program.³⁶²³ PROBLUE focuses on management of fisheries and aquaculture, threats posed to the ocean, sustainable development of ocean sectors, and building government capacity to manage marine and coastal resources.³⁶²⁴

On 1 January 2019, Germany enforced the Packaging Act, which contains new rules applying to the disposal of packaging.³⁶²⁵ In order to prevent waste, the new legislation enforces the Central Packaging Registry, which holds businesses accountable to proper collection and recycling of packaging. The registry also strives to make this information transparent to the public.³⁶²⁶

On 6 February 2019, Germany and India announced their cooperation on issues pertaining to the environment, water and waste management.³⁶²⁷ Germany will invest EUR35 million over the next few years in India's climate action projects.³⁶²⁸ Both countries agreed to work on creating reference documents for air and water governance, marine litter and the circular economy.³⁶²⁹

From 11-15 March 2019, Germany participated in the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya.³⁶³⁰ State Secretary at the Federal Environment Ministry and head of the German delegation Jochen Flasbarth stated that Germany will work with other countries to create an internationally binding agreement on plastic waste.³⁶³¹ The assembly agreed upon an international set of rules to reduce marine litter pollution.³⁶³²

From 5-6 May 2019, Germany participated in the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Metz, where France and the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan presented the "G7 Action Plan to

³⁶²² The World Bank's Blue Economy Program and PROBLUE, The World Bank (Washington D.C.) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 21 August 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/the-world-banks-blue-economy-program-and-problue-frequently-asked-questions>.

³⁶²³ The World Bank's Blue Economy Program and PROBLUE, The World Bank (Washington D.C.) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 21 August 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/the-world-banks-blue-economy-program-and-problue-frequently-asked-questions>.

³⁶²⁴ The World Bank's Blue Economy Program and PROBLUE, The World Bank (Washington D.C.) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 21 August 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/the-world-banks-blue-economy-program-and-problue-frequently-asked-questions>.

³⁶²⁵ The Packaging Act has entered into force: Less packaging- more transparency and recycling (Berlin) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/das-verpackungsgesetz-ist-in-kraft-getreten-weniger-verpackungen-mehr-transparenz-und-recycling/>.

³⁶²⁶ The Packaging Act has entered into force: Less packaging- more transparency and recycling (Berlin) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/das-verpackungsgesetz-ist-in-kraft-getreten-weniger-verpackungen-mehr-transparenz-und-recycling/>.

³⁶²⁷ Minister Schulze agrees closer environmental cooperation with India (Berlin) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-vereinbart-engere-umweltzusammenarbeit-mit-indien/>.

³⁶²⁸ Minister Schulze agrees closer environmental cooperation with India (Berlin) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-vereinbart-engere-umweltzusammenarbeit-mit-indien/>.

³⁶²⁹ India, Germany decide to cooperate on water, waste management (New Delhi) 6 February 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-germany-decide-to-cooperate-on-water-waste-management-119020601563_1.html.

³⁶³⁰ Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/unea-fordert-weltweite-abkehr-von-wegwerfgesellschaft/>.

³⁶³¹ Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/unea-fordert-weltweite-abkehr-von-wegwerfgesellschaft/>.

³⁶³² Fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/unea-fordert-weltweite-abkehr-von-wegwerfgesellschaft/>.

Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions Workshop.”³⁶³³ Attendees concluded that cooperation with regional fisheries organizations and knowledge-sharing of best practices are necessary to address marine litter.³⁶³⁴ This workshop advances the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.³⁶³⁵

On 9 May 2019, Minister Müller of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development launched the PREVENT Waste Alliance alongside the Indonesian Ambassador and over 30 international organizations.³⁶³⁶ This alliance is part of the “Action Program on Circular Economy of the German Development Cooperation.”³⁶³⁷ The aim of this alliance is to prevent waste from discharging into the environment in developing countries and emerging economies.³⁶³⁸

On 21 May 2019, Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze announced Germany’s intention to comply with the EU’s directive to ban selected single-use plastic products and reduce ocean pollution.³⁶³⁹ Schulze stated that Germany will ban single-use plastic products before 2021, and place responsibility on manufacturers to pay for the clean-up costs of products thrown into the ocean environment.³⁶⁴⁰

While Germany has engaged in efforts to address the issue of marine litter through research and innovation, it has yet to promote harmonization of its monitoring methodologies for marine litter with other members of the G7 or other governments.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Meagan Byrd and Alexa Kalsatos

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

On 16 June 2018, Italy attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.³⁶⁴¹ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total

³⁶³³ G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis, France 24 (Paris) 5 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190505-g7-environment-ministers-meet-discuss-climate-crisis>.

³⁶³⁴ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶³⁵ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶³⁶ Official Launching Event, PREVENT 9 May 2018. Access Date: 21 August 2019. <https://www.prevent-waste.net/en/component/allianceassets/assetitem/offizielles-lancierungsevent-0>.

³⁶³⁷ <https://www.prevent-waste.net/en/component/allianceassets/assetitem/offizielles-lancierungsevent-0>

³⁶³⁸ <https://www.prevent-waste.net/en/component/allianceassets/assetitem/offizielles-lancierungsevent-0>

³⁶³⁹ Minister Schulze calls for swift implementation of EU rules on single-use plastics, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 21 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-neue-eu-regeln-fuer-einwegplastik-rasch-umsetzen/>.

³⁶⁴⁰ Minister Schulze calls for swift implementation of EU rules on single-use plastics, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 21 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-neue-eu-regeln-fuer-einwegplastik-rasch-umsetzen/>.

³⁶⁴¹ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018.

http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.³⁶⁴²

On 3 August 2018, Minister of the Environment Sergio Costa announced the creation of federal law to protect oceans from plastic pollution.³⁶⁴³ This policy and a public campaign were announced to adopt a legislative approach to ridding the public of unsustainable plastic use.³⁶⁴⁴

On 18 September 2018, Italy attended the G7 Ministerial Meeting in Halifax, Canada.³⁶⁴⁵ The meeting noted that a circular economy is essential to addressing marine litter. G7 Environment Ministers emphasized the need to change the life cycle of plastics in order to reduce plastic waste.³⁶⁴⁶ During this meeting, G7 ministers also created an innovation challenge aimed at spurring technological development, raising awareness, and exploring policy improvements in the management of plastics.³⁶⁴⁷

On 26 September 2018, Under-Secretary for the Environment Salvatore Micillo announced a recycling program that allows fishermen to bring ordinary plastics and marine litter caught at sea to be processed and reused as other materials. Micillo stressed the need to consider consumption as a circular economic model and find ways to use materials at all stages.³⁶⁴⁸

On 24 October 2018, the Ministry of Environment participated in the National Association of Italian Municipalities' meeting. This meeting focused on the "Plastic Free" campaign, which strives to eliminate the use of disposable plastic.³⁶⁴⁹ Undersecretary of the Environment Salvatore Micillo emphasized the importance of providing sustainable materials and eliminating the use of plastic and encouraged municipalities to join this initiative and ban disposable plastics.³⁶⁵⁰

³⁶⁴² Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

³⁶⁴³ The Campaign Against Plastic on the Beaches Starts Sunday, Italian Ministry for the Environment Land Sea (Rome) 3 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mare-parte-domenica-la-campagna-contro-la-plastica-sulle-spiagge>.

³⁶⁴⁴ The Campaign Against Plastic on the Beaches Starts Sunday, Italian Ministry for the Environment Land Sea (Rome) 3 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mare-parte-domenica-la-campagna-contro-la-plastica-sulle-spiagge>.

³⁶⁴⁵ G7 Ministerial Meeting: Working Together on Oceans, Climate Change and Clean Energy (Halifax) 22 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/>.

³⁶⁴⁶ Chair's Summary: G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting (Halifax) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/g7-environment-ministers-meeting-chairs-summary/>.

³⁶⁴⁷ Chairs' Summary: G7 Joint Ministerial Session on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities (Halifax) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/joint-chairs-summary/>.

³⁶⁴⁸ Undersecretary Micillo in Corepla: Italy Leader in Recycling, On Plastic We Have to Do More. Soon a Law to Clean the Seas (Rome) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 11 October 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/il-sottosegretario-micillo-corepla-italia-leader-nel-riciclo-su-plastica-dobbiamo-fare-di>.

³⁶⁴⁹ Ministry of Environment at the ANCI Assembly, Focus on 'Plastic Free' and Public Green, Italian Ministry for the Environment Land Sea (Rome) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 29 November 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ministero-ambiente-ad-assemblea-anci-focus-su-plastic-free-e-verde-pubblico>.

³⁶⁵⁰ Ministry of Environment at the ANCI Assembly, Focus on 'Plastic Free' and Public Green, Italian Ministry for the Environment Land Sea (Rome) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 29 November 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ministero-ambiente-ad-assemblea-anci-focus-su-plastic-free-e-verde-pubblico>.

On 30 October 2018, at the Our Ocean Conference in Bali, the Italian Development Cooperation — a government agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — committed EUR1.3 million towards 23 commitments that focus on supporting the conservation of marine biodiversity in Indonesia and the promotion of a blue economy, ocean monitoring and plastic pollution.

On 19 December 2018, Environment Minister Sergio Costa participated in a meeting of the European Council's Environment Ministers. The meeting resolved to combat plastic pollution in marine environments.³⁶⁵¹ In the directive, the council expressed its desire to reduce the environmental impact of plastics, fishing nets, and containers created from expanded polystyrene.³⁶⁵²

On 30 January 2019, Undersecretary for the Environment Salvatore Micillo announced the launch of the university campaign #StopSingleUsePlastic.³⁶⁵³ This campaign will bring awareness across universities in Italy with regards to three of the Ministry of Environment's goals: reduction of disposable plastic, protection of the sea and environmental education.³⁶⁵⁴ The announcement emphasized the importance of involving youth to achieve the Italian government's goals.³⁶⁵⁵

On 27 February 2019, the Ministry of the Environment launched the “developing and strengthening effective management of specially protected areas of Mediterranean importance” campaign.³⁶⁵⁶ This initiative aims to encourage collaboration between Mediterranean countries, civil society groups and marine protected areas to promote the sustainable management of protected areas in the Mediterranean through sharing best monitoring practices.³⁶⁵⁷

On 4 April 2019, Italy's Council of Ministers approved the Salvamare bill, allowing fishermen to collect plastic using their own fishing nets.³⁶⁵⁸ Previously, Italian fishermen were unable to collect

³⁶⁵¹ Plastica, Minister Costa: “An Important Day: A Path to Protect the Seas and Environment” (Rome) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/plastica-ministro-costa-giornata-importante-avviato-cammino-di-tutela-dei-mari-e>.

³⁶⁵² Plastica, Minister Costa: ‘An Important Day: A Path to Protect the Seas and Environment’ (Rome) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/plastica-ministro-costa-giornata-importante-avviato-cammino-di-tutela-dei-mari-e>.

³⁶⁵³ #StopSingleUsePlastic in Italian universities, under secretary Micillo: “We also bring our experience #PlasticFree among our students, young people are our future” (Rome) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/stopsingleuseplastic-negli-atenei-italiani-sottosegretario-micillo-portiamo-anchetra-gli>.

³⁶⁵⁴ #StopSingleUsePlastic in Italian universities, under secretary Micillo: “We also bring our experience #PlasticFree among our students, young people are our future” (Rome) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/stopsingleuseplastic-negli-atenei-italiani-sottosegretario-micillo-portiamo-anchetra-gli>.

³⁶⁵⁵ #StopSingleUsePlastic in Italian universities, under secretary Micillo: “We also bring our experience #PlasticFree among our students, young people are our future” (Rome) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/stopsingleuseplastic-negli-atenei-italiani-sottosegretario-micillo-portiamo-anchetra-gli>.

³⁶⁵⁶ Mediterranean: the program for specially protected marine areas is under way Financed by the Ministry of the Environment. Four twinning agreements signed with Albania, Algeria, Slovenia and Tunisia (Rome) 27 February 2019. Access Date: 27 February 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mediterraneo-al-il-programma-le-aree-marine-specialmente-protette-finanziato-dal>.

³⁶⁵⁷ Mediterranean: the program for specially protected marine areas is under way Financed by the Ministry of the Environment. Four twinning agreements signed with Albania, Algeria, Slovenia and Tunisia (Rome) 27 February 2019. Access Date: 27 February 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mediterraneo-al-il-programma-le-aree-marine-specialmente-protette-finanziato-dal>.

³⁶⁵⁸ Costa: With the Salvamare Law We Start Cleaning Up the Sea From Plastic, Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection (Rome) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 6 June 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/costa-con-la-legge-salvamare-iniziamo-ripulire-il-mare-dalla-plastica>.

plastic because this action was considered a crime of illegal waste transport.³⁶⁵⁹ Environment Minister Sergio Costa noted the urgency and importance of protecting the sea, in addition to Italy's intention to become a leader in eradicating marine litter.³⁶⁶⁰

From 5-6 May 2019, Italy participated in the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Metz, where France and the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan presented the "G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions Workshop."³⁶⁶¹ Attendees concluded that cooperation with regional fisheries organizations and knowledge-sharing of best practices are necessary to address marine litter.³⁶⁶² This workshop advances the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.³⁶⁶³

On 21 May 2019, Environment Minister Sergio Costa announced that Italy would adopt the European Union's directive to prohibit disposable plastics through stricter regulations.³⁶⁶⁴ The Environment Minister emphasized the importance of eradicating marine litter and plastics to protect marine species.³⁶⁶⁵

While Italy has shown evidence of promoting the harmonization of marine monitoring methodologies with other G7 members and enacting domestic legislation on the issue of marine litter, they have not conducted collaborative research on the impacts of marine litter through partnerships with institutions such as, but not limited to, the UNEP.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Meagan Byrd and Alexa Kalsatos

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate this work.

On 15 June 2018, the Upper House unanimously passed a bill to reduce microplastics. The new bill urges businesses and corporations to constrain their utilization of microplastics in cosmetic and

³⁶⁵⁹ Italy approved the "Salvamare" bill: fishermen can collect plastic in the sea, SmartGreen (Rome) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 6 June 2019. <https://www.smartgreenpost.com/2019/05/29/italy-approved-the-salvamare-bill-fishermen-can-collect-plastic-in-the-sea/>.

³⁶⁶⁰ Costa: With the Salvamare Law We Start Cleaning Up the Sea From Plastic, Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection (Rome) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 6 June 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/costa-con-la-legge-salvamare-iniziamo-ripulire-il-mare-dalla-plastica>.

³⁶⁶¹ G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis, France 24 (Paris) 5 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190505-g7-environment-ministers-meet-discuss-climate-crisis>.

³⁶⁶² On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶⁶³ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶⁶⁴ Plastics: Costa, A Good EU Stop Directive For Disposable Products, Italy Must Be Among the First to Implement It, Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection (Rome) 21 May 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/plastica-costa-bene-direttiva-ue-stop-ai-prodotti-monouso-l-italia-dev-essere-tra-i-primi>.

³⁶⁶⁵ Plastics: Costa, A Good EU Stop Directive For Disposable Products, Italy Must Be Among the First to Implement It, Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection (Rome) 21 May 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/plastica-costa-bene-direttiva-ue-stop-ai-prodotti-monouso-l-italia-dev-essere-tra-i-primi>.

hygiene products such as face wash and toothpaste. The provision of this law also compels local governments to educate their populations about recycling and the adverse effects of plastics.³⁶⁶⁶

On 16 June 2018, Japan attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.³⁶⁶⁷ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Italy, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.³⁶⁶⁸

On 6 August 2018, the Office of Marine Environment in the Water Environment Division, based in the Environmental Management Bureau of the Ministry of the Environment, announced its “Outline for the Project of Harmonization of Microplastics Monitoring Methodologies in the Ocean.”³⁶⁶⁹ The outline presents a detailed history of the marine litter agenda in Japan and within the G7, and presents an expert meeting series held to draft recommendations for microplastics monitoring.

On 19 September 2018, the Environment Minister attended the G7 joint meeting on Healthy Oceans, Seas, and Resilient Communities. During this meeting, the ministers reiterated their commitment to reducing marine litter and created an innovation challenge aimed at spurring innovation, raising awareness, and facilitating improvements in the management of plastics. The ministers noted the need to prevent plastics from entering the oceans and other water bodies.³⁶⁷⁰

On 3 October 2018, Japan signed the Central Arctic Ocean agreement, which outlines a joint programme to monitor an area of sea opening in the Arctic under the pressures of climate change. The programme involves nine other signatory countries, including G7 members such as the United States, Canada, and the European Union.³⁶⁷¹ The parties involved will also commence a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring to oversee the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean.³⁶⁷²

On 15 November 2018, Japan attended the Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Plus Three (ASEAN+3) in Singapore, where the attendant parties discussed the launch of the ASEAN+3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative. Under this initiative, countries will

³⁶⁶⁶ Bill to reduce microplastics released into the environment passed by Japan’s Upper House, The Japan Times, 15 June 2018. Access Date: 9 September 2018. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/06/15/national/bill-reduce-microplastics-released-environment-passed-japans-upper-house/#.W5h8eJNKiCV>.

³⁶⁶⁷ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018.

http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

³⁶⁶⁸ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

³⁶⁶⁹ Outline for the Project of Harmonization of Microplastics Monitoring Methodologies in the Ocean, Office of Marine Environment, Water Environment Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 6 August 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://www.env.go.jp/en/water/marine_litter/outline.pdf.

³⁶⁷⁰ Press Briefings (Reports), Foreign Press Center Japan (Tokyo) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <http://fpcj.jp/en/worldnews/briefings/>.

³⁶⁷¹ Commercial fishing banned across much of the Arctic, The Guardian (London) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/03/commercial-fishing-banned-across-much-of-the-arctic?fbclid=IwAR14e7TrcwUKTKXWzh6_MvF1h-E17mQRmMgk9Yq0DwoXtazwUeXNbEJpDE.

³⁶⁷² EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas — Frequently Asked Questions, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas-%E2%80%93-frequently_en

work together to engage in cooperative research about marine debris, assess its impacts, and work to develop the capacity to monitor plastic marine litter.³⁶⁷³

On 28 January 2019, a delegate from Japan attended the 20th ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Environment. Participating member states reviewed documents outlining actions pertaining to marine litter prevention.³⁶⁷⁴ The aim of this meeting was to formalize documents before ministers meet to discuss Blueprint 2025 in March 2019, which will outline the extent to which ASEAN countries are cooperating on environmental issues, including marine litter prevention.³⁶⁷⁵

On 4 March 2019, Japan donated JPY123 million to the “Promotion of Countermeasures Against Marine Plastic Litter in Southeast Asia and India,” an initiative facilitated by the Japanese government in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program.³⁶⁷⁶ The initiative aims to “develop a model for plastic leakage and monitor leakage hotspots along the Ganges and Mekong rivers.”³⁶⁷⁷ It also aspires to increase knowledge on the implementation of countermeasures against marine plastic litter.³⁶⁷⁸

On 31 March 2019, Japan released a draft Strategy for Plastic Resources Circulation, which aims to implement measures that will prevent the release of microplastics into marine environments by 2020.³⁶⁷⁹ The strategy will also promote research on the use, effects and reduction of microplastics.³⁶⁸⁰

From 5 to 6 May 2019, Japan participated in the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Metz, where France and the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan presented the “G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions Workshop.”³⁶⁸¹ Attendees concluded that cooperation with regional fisheries organizations and knowledge-sharing of best

³⁶⁷³ ASEAN, China and Japan agree to pitch in to reduce plastic waste, Asian Review (Singapore) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Environment/ASEAN-China-and-Japan-agree-to-pitch-in-to-reduce-plastic-waste>.

³⁶⁷⁴ ASEAN working on Strategic Action Against Marine Pollution, China Daily (Sydney) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <https://www.chinadailyhk.com/articles/70/234/196/1549016913050.html>.

³⁶⁷⁵ ASEAN working on Strategic Action Against Marine Pollution, China Daily (Sydney) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. <https://www.chinadailyhk.com/articles/70/234/196/1549016913050.html>.

³⁶⁷⁶ UNEP, Japan Announce Marine Litter Initiative, SDG Knowledge Hub (Winnipeg) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 11 May 2019. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/unep-japan-announce-marine-litter-initiative/>.

³⁶⁷⁷ UNEP, Japan Announce Marine Litter Initiative, SDG Knowledge Hub (Winnipeg) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 11 May 2019. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/unep-japan-announce-marine-litter-initiative/>.

³⁶⁷⁸ UNEP, Japan Announce Marine Litter Initiative, SDG Knowledge Hub (Winnipeg) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 11 May 2019. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/unep-japan-announce-marine-litter-initiative/>.

³⁶⁷⁹ Japan Plans Microplastics Reduction in Marine Environments by 2020, Chemical Watch (Shrewsbury) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 11 May 2019. <https://chemicalwatch.com/77349/japan-plans-microplastics-reduction-in-marine-environments-by-2020>.

³⁶⁸⁰ Japan Plans Microplastics Reduction in Marine Environments by 2020, Chemical Watch (Shrewsbury) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 11 May 2019. <https://chemicalwatch.com/77349/japan-plans-microplastics-reduction-in-marine-environments-by-2020>.

³⁶⁸¹ G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis, France 24 (Paris) 5 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190505-g7-environment-ministers-meet-discuss-climate-crisis>.

practices are necessary to address marine litter.³⁶⁸² This workshop advances the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.³⁶⁸³

On 21 May 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment collaborated with the International Environmental Technology Centre to convene a summit entitled “Global Dialogue with the Private Sector: Technology Solutions for Holistic Waste Management.”³⁶⁸⁴ The first session engaged private sector organizations to highlight potential solutions to the issue of marine litter.³⁶⁸⁵ Partnership pledges were signed to work alongside governmental organizations on marine health.³⁶⁸⁶

On 31 May 2019, Japan adopted a policy package aimed at reducing plastic marine waste.³⁶⁸⁷ The plan aims to provide technical support for developing countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, to cut disposable plastic waste by 25% by 2030 and completely recycle or reuse such waste by 2035.³⁶⁸⁸ Japan is also requesting that companies and riverside municipalities curb their usage of microbeads.³⁶⁸⁹

Japan has acted to align marine litter policies domestically, and it has presented a blueprint to harmonize and standardize monitoring methodologies through transboundary cooperation. It has also promoted collaboration on researching the impacts of marine litter.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Sofia Louise Lopez and Sanjna Ullal

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate this work.

³⁶⁸² On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶⁸³ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁶⁸⁴ Global Dialogue with the Private Sector on Technology Solutions for Holistic Waste Management, UN Environment (Nairobi) 23 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/news/story/global-dialogue-private-sector-technology-solutions-holistic-waste-management>.

³⁶⁸⁵ Technology Solutions for Holistic Waste Management - A Global Dialogue with the Private Sector, UN Environment (Nairobi) 21 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/events/summit/technology-solutions-holistic-waste-management-global-dialogue-private-sector>.

³⁶⁸⁶ Global Dialogue with the Private Sector on Technology Solutions for Holistic Waste Management, UN Environment (Nairobi) 23 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/news/story/global-dialogue-private-sector-technology-solutions-holistic-waste-management>.

³⁶⁸⁷ Japan adopts policy package aimed at cutting plastic waste ahead of Osaka G20 summit, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 31 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/05/31/national/japan-adopts-policy-package-aimed-cutting-plastic-waste-ahead-osaka-g20-summit/>.

³⁶⁸⁸ Japan adopts policy package aimed at cutting plastic waste ahead of Osaka G20 summit, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 31 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/05/31/national/japan-adopts-policy-package-aimed-cutting-plastic-waste-ahead-osaka-g20-summit/>.

³⁶⁸⁹ Japan adopts policy package aimed at cutting plastic waste ahead of Osaka G20 summit, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 31 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/05/31/national/japan-adopts-policy-package-aimed-cutting-plastic-waste-ahead-osaka-g20-summit/>.

On 16 June 2018, the UK attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.³⁶⁹⁰ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Germany, Canada, Italy, and the United States.³⁶⁹¹

On 3 October 2018, at the Scottish Resources Conference that Zero Waste Scotland, Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform announced that it will be increasing available grants to GBP1 million in partnership with Marine Scotland, an amount that will finance innovative projects aimed at tackling marine litter.³⁶⁹²

On 11 October 2018, the UK attended the Arctic Environment Ministers' Meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland. The purpose of the meeting was to explore common solutions to the issues of climate change, biodiversity, and pollution prevention. The United Kingdom Observer released a statement highlighting the UK's work with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), seeking to develop and implement a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.³⁶⁹³

On 18 October 2018, the UK attended the OSPAR-Cartagena Convention, where the parties developed recommendations for a uniform litter monitoring and management programme. These recommendations will be presented to the Contracting Parties at the next Cartagena conference of the parties in Marine 2019.³⁶⁹⁴

On 19 October 2018, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, co-funded by the Welsh government and the EU, provided a GBP50,000 fund to a research project studying the effects of and potential solutions for marine litter. This project was designed to complement the Clean Seas Partnership Marine Litter Action Plan.³⁶⁹⁵

On 22 January 2019, representatives from the UK Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science attended a Commonwealth Litter Programme Vanuatu national policy workshop. At the workshop, marine litter scientists from the UK presented data on marine litter in

³⁶⁹⁰ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018.

http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

³⁶⁹¹ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

³⁶⁹² Zero Waste Scotland Doubles Marine Litter Fund to €1 Million, British Plastics and Rubber (Chester) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/Environment/zero-waste-scotland-doubles-marine-litter-fund-to-%C2%A31million/>.

³⁶⁹³ Arctic Environment Ministers' Meeting: UK Observer's Statement; Commonwealth Office (Helsinki) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 11 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/arctic-environment-ministers-meeting-uk-observers-statement>.

³⁶⁹⁴ Harmonising Marine Litter Monitoring for plastic free oceans, OSPAR Commission. 22 October 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018. <https://www.ospar.org/news/harmonising-marine-litter-monitoring-for-plastic-free-oceans>.

³⁶⁹⁵ New Marine Litter Project Launched, Welsh Government (Cardiff) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. <https://gov.wales/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2018/181019-new-marine-litter-project-launched/?lang=en>.

Efate.³⁶⁹⁶ The workshop discussed how data collected during the programme could help develop new solutions for Vanuatu.³⁶⁹⁷

From 20 to 21 February 2019, Marine Scotland hosted an International Marine Conference, where delegates adopted a commitment to working with other nations to collect and share data about marine litter.³⁶⁹⁸ Other pledges include working to develop a circular economy and preventing the inappropriate disposal of litter by the marine sector.³⁶⁹⁹

On 22 February 2019, Marine Scotland hosted the British-Irish Council Marine Litter Symposium, where Environment Ministers from various parts of the UK agreed to promote marine litter education in schools and in the fishing industry. The meeting also committed to reducing pre-production plastic loss and improving fishing net recycling mechanisms.³⁷⁰⁰

From 5-6 May 2019, the UK participated in the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Metz, where France and the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan presented the “G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions Workshop.”³⁷⁰¹ Attendees concluded that cooperation with regional fisheries organizations and knowledge-sharing of best practices are necessary to address marine litter.³⁷⁰² This workshop advances the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.³⁷⁰³

The UK has promoted the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter with other states and has also engaged in collaborative research through multilateral partnerships, such as with the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Angela Min Yi Hou and Sanjna Ullal

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

³⁶⁹⁶ UK Marine Scientists and the Vanuatu Government to Discuss Science and Solutions to Reduce Plastic Pollution, Cefas (Lowestoft) 21 January 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2019. <https://www.cefas.co.uk/clip/clip-news/uk-marine-scientists-and-the-vanuatu-government-to-discuss-science-and-solutions-to-reduce-plastic-pollution/>.

³⁶⁹⁷ UK Marine Scientists and the Vanuatu Government to Discuss Science and Solutions to Reduce Plastic Pollution, Cefas (Lowestoft) 21 January 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2019. <https://www.cefas.co.uk/clip/clip-news/uk-marine-scientists-and-the-vanuatu-government-to-discuss-science-and-solutions-to-reduce-plastic-pollution/>.

³⁶⁹⁸ Scotland’s International Marine Conference 2019, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 11 May 2019. <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/litter/marineconference2019>.

³⁶⁹⁹ Scotland’s International Marine Conference 2019, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 11 May 2019. <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/litter/marineconference2019>.

³⁷⁰⁰ British-Irish Council Marine Litter Symposium, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 11 May 2019. <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/litter/marineconference2019>.

³⁷⁰¹ G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis, France 24 (Paris) 5 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190505-g7-environment-ministers-meet-discuss-climate-crisis>.

³⁷⁰² On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁷⁰³ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

On 16 June 2018, the United States attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.³⁷⁰⁴ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Italy.³⁷⁰⁵

On 19 June 2018, the US published Executive Order (EO) 13840, “Ocean Policy to Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States.” The order’s aims are to improve public access to marine data and information and ensure efficient interagency marine coordination with various stakeholders.³⁷⁰⁶ It establishes the Ocean Policy Committee with the aim of coordinating and informing “the ocean policy-making process and identify[ing] priority ocean research and technology needs.” This, in turn, revokes EO 13547, “Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes,” passed under the Obama administration. As a result, several federal entities and plans — including the National Ocean Council, National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Plan — have been eliminated.³⁷⁰⁷

From 9-12 July 2018, the Chief Scientist for the Marine Debris Program, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Great Lakes Mussel Watch, and scholars from Loyola University collectively explored biomonitoring for microplastics in the Great Lakes via observing zebra and quagga mussels.³⁷⁰⁸ Hosted under the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program is the U.S. Federal government’s lead for addressing marine debris.³⁷⁰⁹

On 16 August 2018, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program announced the 23 recipients of the 2018 prevention and removal grant awards. The awards total approximately USD2.5 million in federal funds, and it aims to support efforts that target national and global marine litter problems impacting wildlife, navigation safety, human health, and the economy.³⁷¹⁰

On 5 September 2018, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program released the “Washington Marine Debris Action Plan.”³⁷¹¹ The action plan outlines four

³⁷⁰⁴ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

³⁷⁰⁵ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

³⁷⁰⁶ Ocean Policy To Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States, Federal Register (Washington D. C.) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/06/22/2018-13640/ocean-policy-to-advance-the-economic-security-and-environmental-interests-of-the-united-states>.

³⁷⁰⁷ Guidance for Implementing Executive Order 13840, Titled “Ocean Policy to Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States”, Executive Office of The President (Washington D. C.) 28 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/DOCUMENT%20-%20EO%20Ocean%20Policy%20Guidance%20Memo.pdf>.

³⁷⁰⁸ Marine Debris Program Joins Microplastics Monitoring Fieldwork in the Great Lakes, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (Silver Spring) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/marine-debris-program-joins-microplastics-monitoring-fieldwork-great-lakes>.

³⁷⁰⁹ About Us, OR&R’s Marine Debris Program, NOAA Marine Debris Program (Silver Spring) Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/about-us>.

³⁷¹⁰ The NOAA Marine Debris Program Awards Funding to 23 New Projects, Marine Debris Program Office of Response And Restoration 16 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/noaa-marine-debris-program-awards-funding-23-new-projects>.

³⁷¹¹ The Washington Marine Debris Action Plan, Marine Debris Program Office of Response and Restoration (Silver Spring) September 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/regional-action-plan/washington-marine-debris-action-plan>.

major goals in addressing the issue of marine litter: prevention, removal, research, and coordination. Specifically, the action plans to “conduct coordinated, high-quality research to inform actions that reduce the adverse impacts of marine debris.”³⁷¹²

On 26 September 2018, Congress passed the Save Our Seas Act. The bill reauthorizes and amends the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris. This includes “providing technical assistance to expand waste management systems internationally.” The bill also authorizes USD10 million to the administrator until 2022.³⁷¹³

On 3 October 2018, the US signed an international agreement along with Japan, Canada, and the European Union to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas of the central Arctic Ocean. The agreement will establish conservation measures to manage and better monitor Arctic Ocean ecosystems, in an effort to make future commercial fishing activities more sustainable.³⁷¹⁴ The parties involved will also commence a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring, overseeing the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean.³⁷¹⁵

On 30 October 2018, at the Our Ocean Conference in Indonesia, the United States announced 15 commitments to reinforce “sustainable management of marine resources,” prevent marine debris, support “research and observation of ocean ecosystems,” and create “partnerships promoting marine security and a sustainable blue economy.”³⁷¹⁶

On 30 November 2018, the United States signed the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), in which the United States recognized the global nature of marine litter.³⁷¹⁷ Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of State negotiated a new Agreement on Environmental Cooperation with Canada and Mexico.³⁷¹⁸ The new agreement will support the CUSMA’s environmental policies and improve collective efforts to reduce marine litter and address other urgent environmental issues.³⁷¹⁹

³⁷¹² The Washington Marine Debris Action Plan, Marine Debris Program Office of Response and Restoration (Silver Spring) September 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/regional-action-plan/washington-marine-debris-action-plan>.

³⁷¹³ S.3508 — Save Our Seas Act of 2018, Congress (Washington D. C.) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3508/text/cps?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.+3508%22%5D%7D&r=1>.

³⁷¹⁴ International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean (Ottawa) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/international/arctic-arctique-eng.htm>.

³⁷¹⁵ EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas — Frequently Asked Questions, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas-%E2%80%93-frequently_en

³⁷¹⁶ U.S. Commitments Announced at Our Ocean 2018, U.S. Department of State (Washington D. C.) 30 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/rls/other/2018/286990.htm>.

³⁷¹⁷ Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada Text, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D. C.) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/united-states-mexico-canada-agreement/agreement-between#>.

³⁷¹⁸ The United States, Mexico, and Canada Conclude Negotiations on a Trilateral Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D. C.) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/united-states-mexico-and-canada-conclude-negotiations-trilateral-agreement>.

³⁷¹⁹ The United States, Mexico, and Canada Conclude Negotiations on a Trilateral Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D. C.) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/united-states-mexico-and-canada-conclude-negotiations-trilateral-agreement>.

On 7 February 2019, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced a resolution to recognize the duty of the federal government to create a Green New Deal.³⁷²⁰ This resolution focuses on combatting climate change, reducing greenhouse emissions and preventing oceans from abuse.³⁷²¹

On 21 February 2019, Assembly Bill-1080 was introduced in the California Legislature. The assembly bill requires the department to adopt regulations that would reduce or recycle at least 75% of single-use plastic products in California by 2030.³⁷²² In addition, the bill would also require all single-use products distributed or sold in California to be recyclable or compostable.³⁷²³

On 5-6 May 2019, the US participated in the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Metz, where France and the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan presented the “G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions Workshop.”³⁷²⁴ Attendees concluded that cooperation with regional fisheries organizations and knowledge-sharing of best practices are necessary to address marine litter.³⁷²⁵ This workshop advances the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.³⁷²⁶

The United States has promoted the harmonization of its monitoring methodologies with its G7 counterparts and other states on a policy level. While the US has explored collaborative research regarding marine litter between various government agencies and academic institutions, such collaboration did not occur on an international level or through partnerships with institutions such as the UNEP.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Angela Min Yi Hou and Mingyang Deng

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

On 20 June 2018, along with UNEP, the European Commission adopted the “2018 Oceans roadmap 2.0,” which addresses ocean pollution and litter. The two parties reaffirmed their commitment to protecting oceans by “addressing land-based sources to combat marine pollution, working through

³⁷²⁰ Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal (Washington D. C.) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/sites/ocasio-cortez.house.gov/files/Resolution%20on%20a%20Green%20New%20Deal.pdf>.

³⁷²¹ Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal (Washington D. C.) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/sites/ocasio-cortez.house.gov/files/Resolution%20on%20a%20Green%20New%20Deal.pdf>.

³⁷²² AB-1080 California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act. (Sacramento) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1080.

³⁷²³ AB-1080 California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act. (Sacramento) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1080.

³⁷²⁴ G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis, France 24 (Paris) 5 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190505-g7-environment-ministers-meet-discuss-climate-crisis>.

³⁷²⁵ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁷²⁶ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

existing governance structures to share best practices and lessons learned and supporting healthy marine and coastal ecosystems, which can help strengthen capacity for sustainable fisheries.” A ten-step roadmap was produced to encourage other governments to follow suit, and the roadmap discussed the mixed impacts of and measures to curb single-use plastics.³⁷²⁷

On 9 July, the EU Think Tank published a report titled “Marine Litter: Single-Use Plastics and Fishing Gear.” The study examines the viability of the European Commission’s impact assessment of a Plastics Strategy directive to reduce marine litter by targeting ten of the most common single-use plastic products found on European beaches and oceans. The study found that while policies adhere to scientific research, the European Commission did not address how businesses will invest in alternative materials and innovation.³⁷²⁸

On 10 July 2018, the European Parliament’s environment committee voted to strengthen the European Commission’s Plastics Strategy. This entails increased efforts to cut plastic pollution by banning microplastics in cosmetics and hygiene products and oxo-degradable plastics by 2020. This new Plastics Strategy also discourages the use of biodegradable and compostable plastics. Furthermore, the EU proposed to invest the revenue accumulated from taxing plastic production in preventing plastic waste.³⁷²⁹

On 16 July 2018, the EU and China signed a Partnership Agreement on Oceans to improve and harmonize international governance of oceans. This agreement combats illegal fishing and identifies novel business and research opportunities based on clean technologies. The partnership outlines precise strategies to protect oceans from plastic litter using approaches in accordance with the Paris Agreement and by implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.³⁷³⁰

On 19 July 2018, the EU threatened legal action against Sweden for failing to comply with EU environmental laws. In a formal notice, the EU prompted Sweden to fully enact the Environmental Liability Directive into its national legislation. The directive necessitated that polluters pay compensation for environmental damage, a law that aims to deter pollution and prevent damage to water bodies, soil, and animals.³⁷³¹

On 31 July 2018, the European Commission published a report entitled “assessing Member States’ programmes of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.” This report outlines the progress of the EU member states’ marine strategies over the past six years, with the goal of achieving “good environmental status.” The report concludes that while the Member States have

³⁷²⁷ Roadmap to healthier, cleaner oceans adopted by UN Environment and European Commission, UN Environment (Brussels) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/roadmap-healthier-cleaner-oceans-adopted-un-environment-and-european>.

³⁷²⁸ Marine litter: single-use plastics and fishing gear, European Parliament (Brussels) July 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/621843/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)621843_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/621843/EPRS_BRI(2018)621843_EN.pdf)

³⁷²⁹ EU Parliaments backs microplastic bans to tackle plastic pollution, EEB (Brussels) 10 July 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <http://eeb.org/eu-parliament-backs-microplastic-bans-to-tackle-plastic-pollution/>.

³⁷³⁰ European Commission — Press release EU-China Summit: deepening the strategic global partnership, European Commission (Beijing) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 9 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4521_en.htm.

³⁷³¹ European Commission — Fact Sheet July infringements package: key decisions, European Commission (Brussels) 19 July 2018. Access Date: 9 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-18-4486_en.htm.

made considerable progress with their programmes, achieving “good environmental status” by 2020 remains unlikely.³⁷³²

On 13 September 2018, the members of the European Parliament voted in favour of a resolution on the European Commission’s Plastics Strategy entitled “A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy.”³⁷³³ The strategy aims for all plastics to be reusable or recyclable by 2030.³⁷³⁴

On 13 September 2018, the European Parliament voted in favour of a resolution to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation. This resolution beckons the European Commission to adopt a plan “to prevent hazardous chemicals from entering the material cycle.”³⁷³⁵

On 25 September 2018, the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme co-hosted an event to launch the Global Plastics Platform. The Global Plastics Platform is a network aimed at supporting countries with plastics strategies and promoting their transitions to a circular economy.³⁷³⁶ At the event, the First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans invited other countries to follow the EU Plastics Strategy and proposed that government and industry should work together.³⁷³⁷

On 3 October 2018, the EU signed a legally binding international agreement to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas of the Central Arctic Ocean. The parties involved, including Japan, the United States, and Canada will also commence a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring to oversee the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean.³⁷³⁸

On 11 October 2018, the European Commission launched a new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe. This new strategy focuses on the circular nature of the bioeconomy, such as its capacity to recycle plastic and convert waste into new goods.³⁷³⁹ The European Commission insists that the bioeconomy will support shifts towards healthier ecosystems such as plastic-free seas and

³⁷³² Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Assessing Member States’ programmes of measure under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A562%3AFIN&qid=1533034580736>

³⁷³³ Texts Adopted: A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, European Commission (Strasbourg) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2018-0352+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

³⁷³⁴ EU strategy to cut plastic waste: more recycling, ban on micro-plastics, European Parliament (Brussels) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20180830STO11347/eu-strategy-to-cut-plastic-waste-more-recycling-ban-on-micro-plastics>

³⁷³⁵ Texts adopted: Options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B8-2018-0363&language=EN>

³⁷³⁶ Nations commit to fight plastic pollution together during the UN General Assembly, United Nations Environment Programme (New York) 25 September 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/nations-commit-fight-plastic-pollution-together-during-un-general>

³⁷³⁷ European Commission — Daily News Daily News 26/09/2018 (Brussels) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-5913_en.htm

³⁷³⁸ EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas — Frequently Asked Questions, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas-%E2%80%93-frequently_en

³⁷³⁹ European Commission — Press release A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6067_en.htm

oceans. This new strategy highlights the importance of innovation, and the European Commission plans to increase funding for bioeconomy research.³⁷⁴⁰

On 26 November 2018, Commissioner Karmenu Vella attended the Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.³⁷⁴¹ A new initiative, Go Blue, was introduced as a collaborative effort between the EU and the Government of Kenya.³⁷⁴² This initiative will be dedicated to “promoting sustainable economic growth, sea-land development and maritime law enforcement” in Kenya.³⁷⁴³

On 13 December 2018, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU approved a Directive “on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships” through a provisional agreement.³⁷⁴⁴ This directive focuses on the reduction of marine litter and waste accumulated from ships, stating that all litter generated on ships must be returned to land.³⁷⁴⁵ The directive is enforced through monitoring methodologies such as inspections and a digital reporting system.³⁷⁴⁶

On 19 December 2018, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU reached an agreement, approving the new directive proposed in May 2018 about the elimination of fishing gear and 10 single-use plastics that constitute the majority of marine litter.³⁷⁴⁷ This consensus on marine litter pollution requires EU member states to initiate the policy within two years.³⁷⁴⁸

On 30 January 2019, upon request by the European Commission, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) researched the environmental consequences of microplastics and concluded that the EU should proceed with an EU-wide restriction on microplastics.³⁷⁴⁹ The next steps include a six-month public consultation period and consultations with the Risk Assessment and Socio-Economic Analysis

³⁷⁴⁰ A sustainable bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment, European Commission (Luxembourg) October 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018.

https://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/pdf/ec_bioeconomy_strategy_2018.pdf — view=fit&pagemode=none

³⁷⁴¹ Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in Kenya (Nairobi) 28 November 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2019.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kenya_en/54550/Towards%20a%20Sustainable%20Blue%20Economy%20in%20Kenya.

³⁷⁴² Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in Kenya (Nairobi) 28 November 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2019.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kenya_en/54550/Towards%20a%20Sustainable%20Blue%20Economy%20in%20Kenya.

³⁷⁴³ Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in Kenya (Nairobi) 28 November 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2019.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kenya_en/54550/Towards%20a%20Sustainable%20Blue%20Economy%20in%20Kenya.

³⁷⁴⁴ European Commission – Daily News Daily News 13/12/2018 (Brussels) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-6807_en.htm.

³⁷⁴⁵ European Commission – Daily News Daily News 13/12/2018 (Brussels) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-6807_en.htm.

³⁷⁴⁶ European Commission – Daily News Daily News 13/12/2018 (Brussels) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-6807_en.htm.

³⁷⁴⁷ European Commission - Press release Single-use plastics: Commission welcomes ambitious agreement on new rules to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6867_en.htm.

³⁷⁴⁸ European Commission - Press release Single-use plastics: Commission welcomes ambitious agreement on new rules to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6867_en.htm.

³⁷⁴⁹ European Commission welcomes ECHA’s opinion on restricting microplastics intentionally added to products, European Commission (Brussels) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/european-commission-welcomes-echas-opinion-restricting-microplastics-intentionally-added-products-2019-jan-30_en.

Committees of ECHA, the outcomes of which the European Commission will consider when modifying current policies associated with microplastics.³⁷⁵⁰

On 27 March 2019, the European Parliament agreed on the European Commission's strategies to limit single-use plastics.³⁷⁵¹ The new rules include bans on single-use products where there are alternatives, measures to reduce unnecessary packaging, Extended User Responsibility schemes (such as covering clean-up costs), and separate collection of plastic bottles.³⁷⁵² Next, the Council of Ministers must finalize details for the strategies to be officially adopted.³⁷⁵³

From 5 to 6 May 2019, the EU participated in the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Metz, where France and the UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan presented the "G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions Workshop."³⁷⁵⁴ Attendees concluded that cooperation with regional fisheries organizations and knowledge-sharing of best practices are necessary to address marine litter.³⁷⁵⁵ This workshop advances the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter.³⁷⁵⁶

On 21 May 2019, the EU adopted a set of rules aimed at reducing single-use plastics. The rules were discussed in the European Parliament, and they involve bans on single-use plastics where alternatives are available, including products such as straws and cutlery. The rules are to become actionable 20 days after the publication, and intend to focus on consumption and waste management measures.³⁷⁵⁷

The EU has acted to enhance collaborative expertise-sharing and development with partners in international institutions, within the EU consortium and with bilateral partners outside the region such as China. It has harmonized monitoring methodologies for marine litter and demonstrated collaborative research on the impacts of marine litter.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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³⁷⁵⁰ European Commission welcomes ECHA's opinion on restricting microplastics intentionally added to products, European Commission (Brussels) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/european-commission-welcomes-echas-opinion-restricting-microplastics-intentionally-added-products-2019-jan-30_en.

³⁷⁵¹ European Commission – Statement Circular Economy: Commission welcomes European Parliament adoption of new rules on single-use plastics to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1873_en.htm.

³⁷⁵² European Commission – Statement Circular Economy: Commission welcomes European Parliament adoption of new rules on single-use plastics to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1873_en.htm.

³⁷⁵³ European Commission – Statement Circular Economy: Commission welcomes European Parliament adoption of new rules on single-use plastics to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1873_en.htm.

³⁷⁵⁴ G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis, France 24 (Paris) 5 May 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190505-g7-environment-ministers-meet-discuss-climate-crisis>.

³⁷⁵⁵ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁷⁵⁶ On Marine Litter, A G7 Workshop in France Highlights The Central Role of Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM (Helsinki) 9 May 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2019. <http://www.helcom.fi/news/Pages/G7-workshop-on-marine-litter-in-metz.aspx>.

³⁷⁵⁷ European Commission – Press Release Circular Economy: Commission welcomes Council final adoption of new rules on single-use plastics to reduce marine plastic litter, European Commission (Brussels) 21 May 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2631_en.htm.