

Session 3: Advancing regional best practices: Generating fit-for-purpose data for the Quality Status Reports for the Mediterranean

Presentation of the French strategy to monitor aquatic litter on the coastline and in rivers



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Regional Webinar on the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation

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CEDRE, expertise centre in spill preparedness and response

Spill risks
Spills



France
International



Seas and oceans
Inland waters



Oil
Chemicals
Aquatic litter



1 site in Brest
in Brittany, France

55 people
in our team

2.5 ha
of technical facilities

€5,5 million
budget

24/7
emergency hotline

Our activities in Aquatic litter



Support for the implementation of public policies relating to aquatic litter reduction

- Coordination of 3 national monitoring networks (coastline and estuaries)
- Support for the **Marine Environment Strategy Framework Directive, OSPAR and Barcelona Conventions**, national actions :
 - *Member of MSFD-TG-ML*
 - *Member of the BARCON CORMON Marine Litter*
 - *Member of the OSPAR ICG-ML*
 - *Lead of the OSPAR Beach litter expert group*

Contribution to knowledge acquisition

- Fate and impacts
- Prevention and recovery solutions

Awareness-raising and public communication actions

The context of aquatic litter monitoring in France



EU MARINE STRATEGY
FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE



A common goal: **Reduce** the introduction of litter into the marine environment at levels that **do not cause harm** to the **coastal and marine environment**

=> Involving monitoring programmes to assess the environmental status, identify the most problematic items and assess the measure's effectiveness

The aquatic litter monitoring in France

Under the coordination of CEDRE, funded by the French Ministry of Environment:



- Since 2010, monitoring of macrolitter on the coastline (a.k.a as beach litter)
 - To feed the EU MSFD, the OSPAR Convention and the Barcelona Convention
- Since, 2020, monitoring of large microplastics (1-5 mm) and mesoplastic fragments (5-25 mm) on the coastline
 - To feed the EU MSFD and OSPAR
- Since 2020, monitoring of macrolitter on riverbanks near estuaries
 - To feed the EU MSFD, BARCON and OSPAR



The approach adopted in France to monitor aquatic litter

- Metropolitan France: **5500 km of coastline, 428 906 km** of rivers with 7 major rivers, facing both the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic ocean
- Monitoring performed by **networks of local operators**, created and coordinated by CEDRE
 - Local operators are selected by CEDRE (following a list a criteria)
 - The contribute in the selection of survey sites
 - They are trained to apply the same protocole (following international guidelines)
 - They are compensated financially
- CEDRE is in charge of the quality assurance and quality control
- Added-value of the approach:
 - Operators have good knowledge of local conditions and factors affecting litter pollution
 - Allows for monitoring at large scale
 - Creates synergies between national monitoring and local actions
 - Local operators can also be mobilised in case of an accidental spill

Our networks in pictures

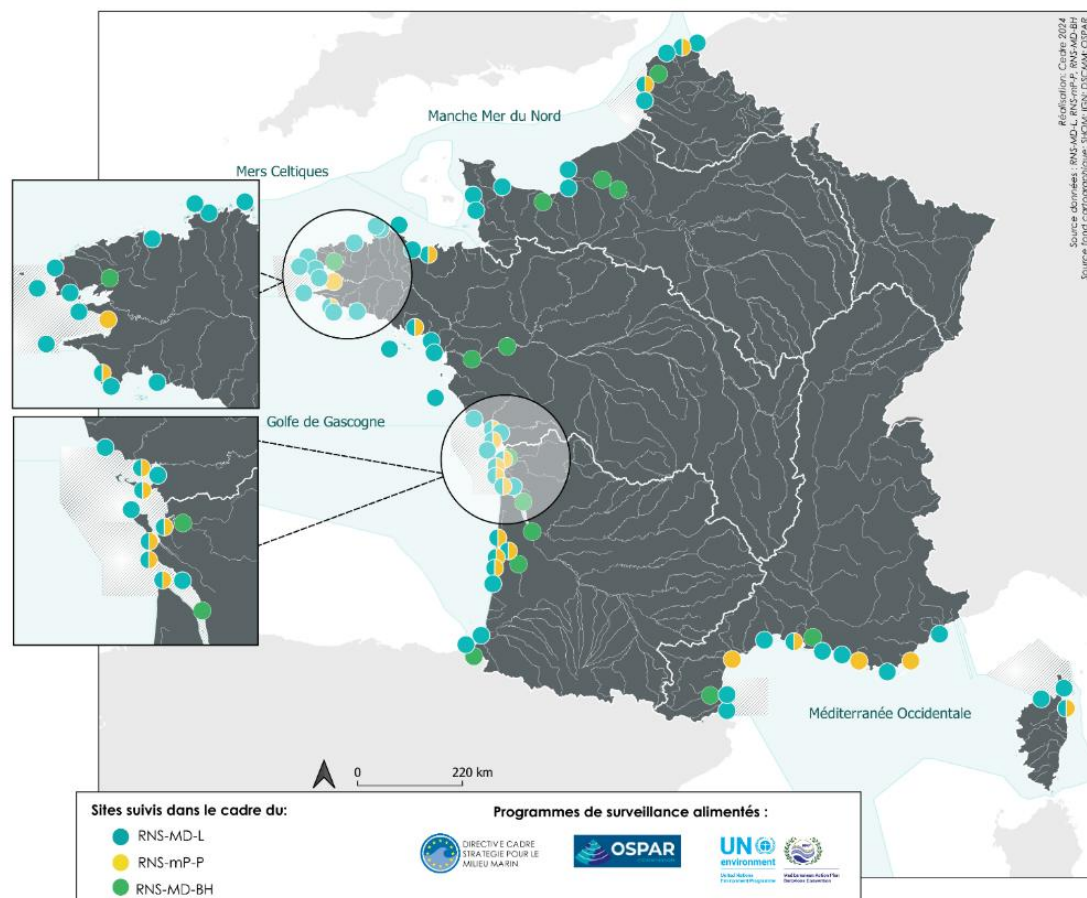
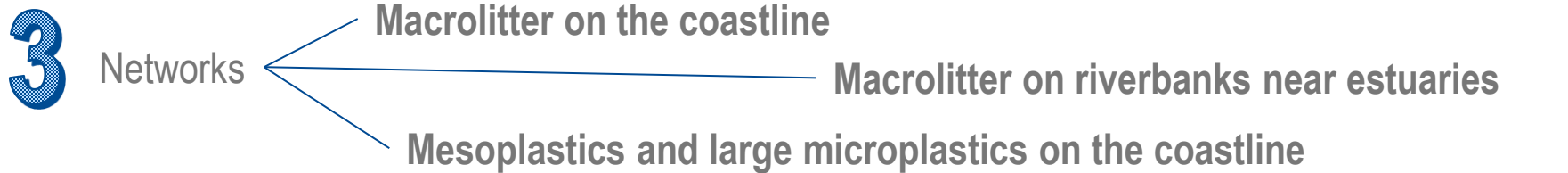


The local operators

- Include MPA, NGO, municipalities, insertion companies, ...
- All work in the environmental field and benefit from being involved in aquatic litter monitoring



The French monitoring networks in 2025: key figures



60 Local operators involved

105 Sites monitored

> 400
Surveys conducted

> 180 000
Litter items sampled and analysed

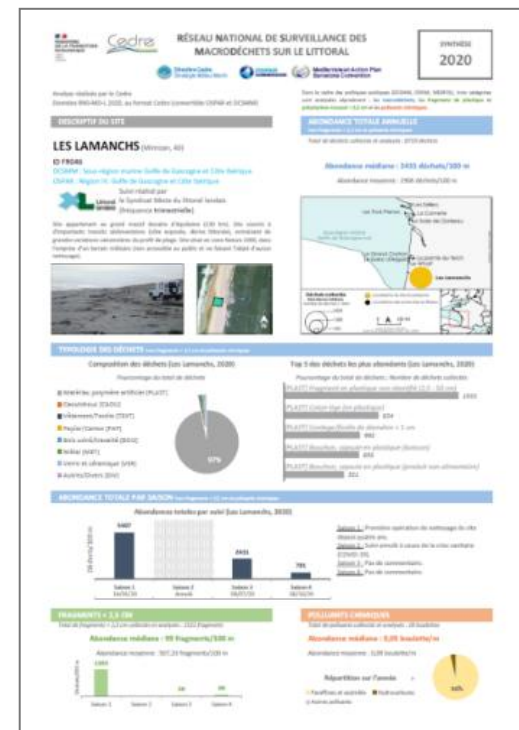
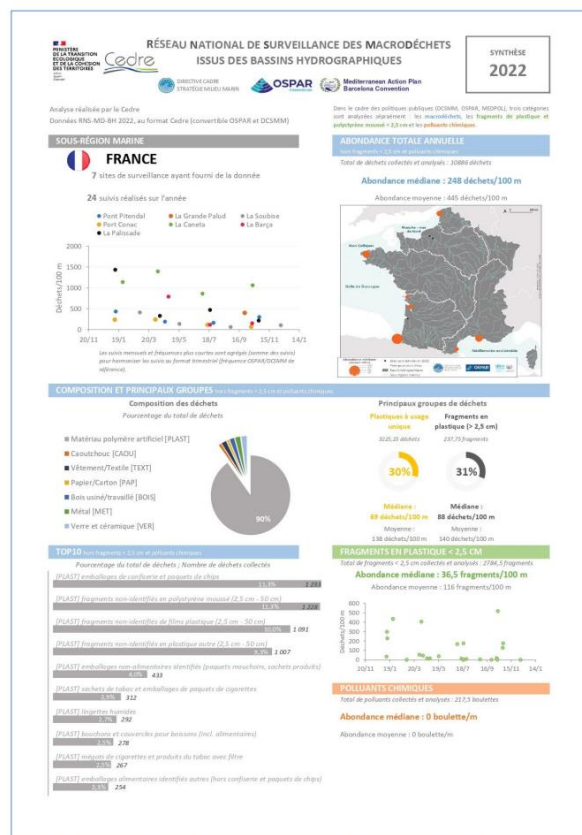
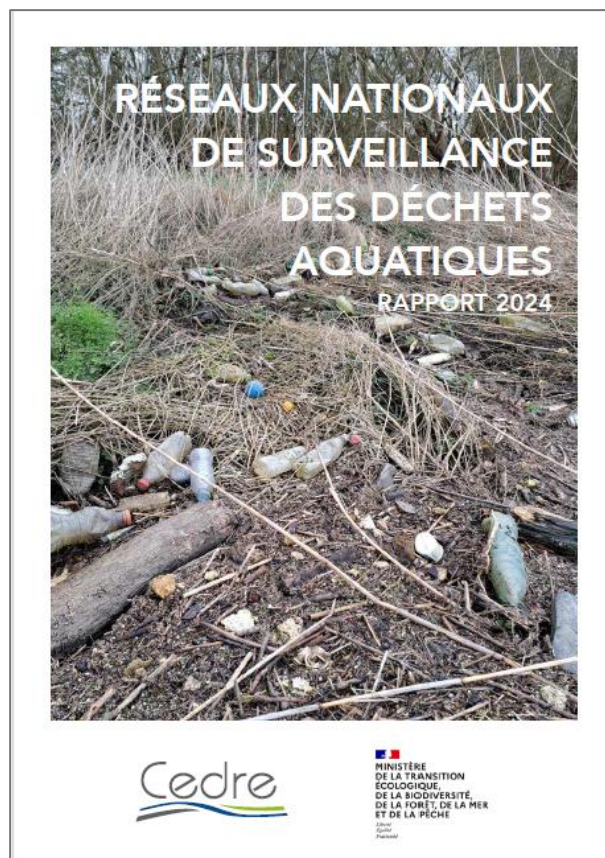
Examples of results for macrolitter on the coastline in 2024



- 60 survey sites
- Median abundance: 386 litter items/100m
- 87% of plastics
- 15% of SUP
- 14% related to fishing
- 10% related to aquaculture
- Among the TOP items:
 - Fragments incl. foamed PS and films
 - String and cords
 - Fishing nets (incl. Pieces)
 - Aquaculture gears
 - Caps and lids

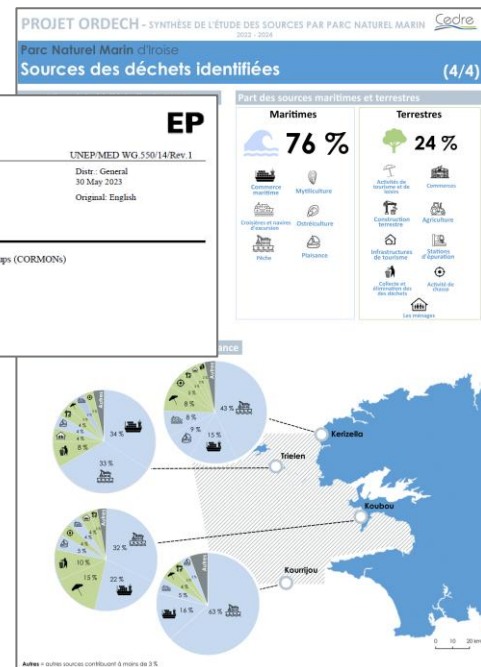
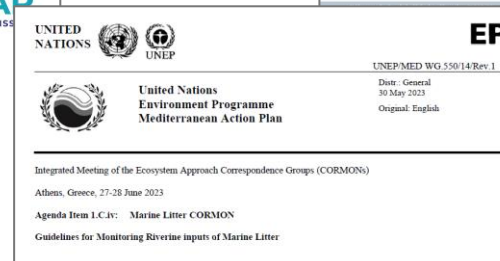
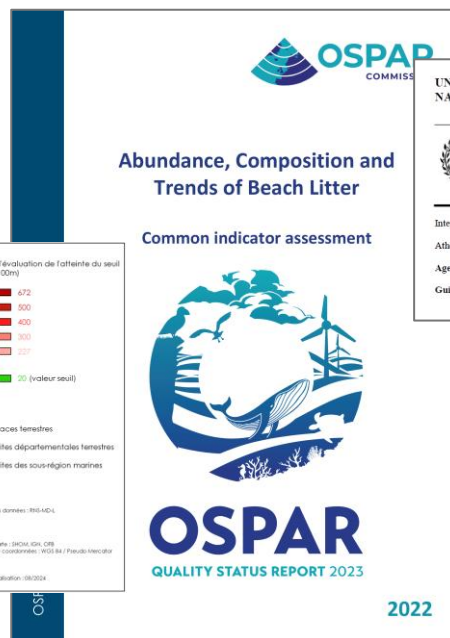
Data and results access

- Data are stored in a national database and are available through an online portal
- Publication of annual reports including fact sheets at different scales
 - Available online and shared with the Minsitry but also operators, Marine protected area, municipalities, water agencies, ...



Reporting and contribution to international work

- Datasets are also used to:
 - produce official data assessment
 - support national policies
 - contribute to research projects
- Datasets are also transferred to international repositories (EMODnet, OSPAR database, IMAP Info System) to feed the MSFD, OSPAR and BARCON indicators
- Support also the work of international experts groups





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