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Marine Litter

A constant concern for Mare Nostrum NGO
since 1999

Project Team:

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We were the first Romanian NGO that brought the marine litter problem in the public agenda.

- Marine litter is one of Mare Nostrum NGO`s biggest concerns since 1999.
- Throughout the years, we kept on fighting against the matter, through sustained awareness campaigns on the Romanian seashore.
- Our sustained efforts in this direction helped us build an impressive database, that clearly reflects the situation and the distribution and abundance of marine litter on the Romanian seashore.

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Every public event and project that we implemented in the last 10 years is focused on educating the population in order to prevent the occurrence of marine litter in the coastal area.

FORMAL

COASTWATCH(1997-2017)

LITORAL
CURAT(2005-2012)

EcoROM Vadu
(2012-2013)

BEACH
MONITORING

MARLISCO

INFORMAL

an exhibition consisting
of interactive panels,
various activities,
competitions and events
designed to teach
students how to be
responsibly towards the
environment

an European MARLISCO
video contest

Marineopoly game

underwater clean up
campaigns

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In the last 10 years, every year, we've organized two sessions of beach monitoring activities



- One of the beach monitoring sessions is held at the beginning of the touristic season (in April-May)
- The second one at the end of the touristic season (September- October)
- Each session covers 1.5% of the Romanian beach portions.

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METHODOLOGY

8

8 beach sectors
surveyed at
every session

1,5%

41 547 m² or
1,5% of the
Romanian
seaside surface
monitored

157

Marine litter
types
registered in
the monitoring
chart

We apply the European methodology included in “The Guidance on Monitoring of Marine Litter in European Seas”, a guidance document within the Common Implementation Strategy for Marine Strategy Framework Directive, covering Romania’s compulsoriness to monitor Descriptor 10 - Marine Litter for beaches, implemented in 2014:

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Over 100 000 pieces of waste eliminated from the Romanian beach portions by Mare Nostrum NGO

- During our 2014 - 2018 beach monitoring sessions, Mare Nostrum NGO identified and eliminated over 100 000 pieces of waste from the monitored beach portions.
- The dirtiest year was 2018 (April and October) with 36 379 items identified and eliminated, being followed at a considerable distance by 2016 (April and October) with 31 060 items



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TOP 3 DIRTIEST BEACH SECTORS vs TOP 3 CLEANEST BEACH SECTORS

- Constanța- with 21 323 items
- Năvodari (17 284)
- Saturn (14 397)



-
- Corbu (3 566)
 - Costinesti (4 038)
 - Vama Veche (10 267)



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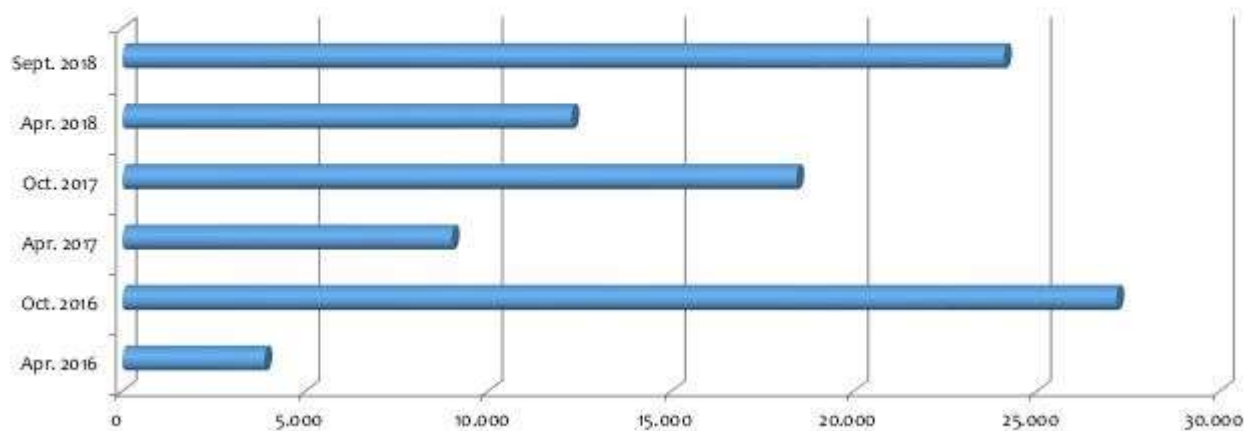


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EVOLUTION OF MARINE LITTER (2016-2018)

Monitoring of marine litter in Romania
2016-2018



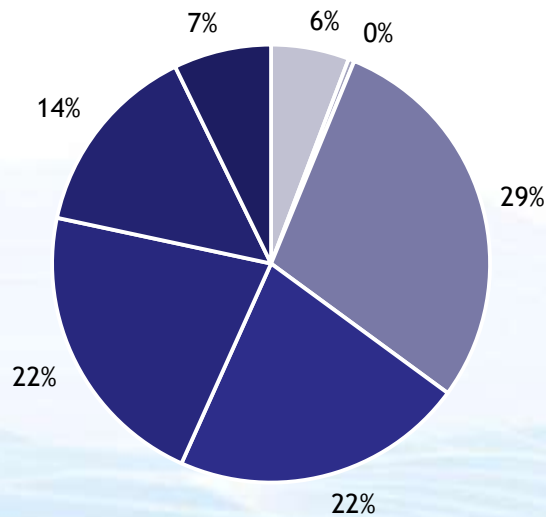
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What types of marine litter are common for the Romanian Seashore?



- Artificial Polymer Materials
- Glass
- Metal
- Processed wood
- Paper
- Textile
- Other

- Artificial Polymer materials (over 21 kg eliminated in September 2018)- 80%
- Glass - (11 kg eliminated in September 2018)- 6%
- Metal- 4%
- Processed Wood elements (18 kg eliminated in September 2018)- 3%
- Paper- 3%
- Textile-2%
- Other-1% (consisting of syringes, diapers, pads)

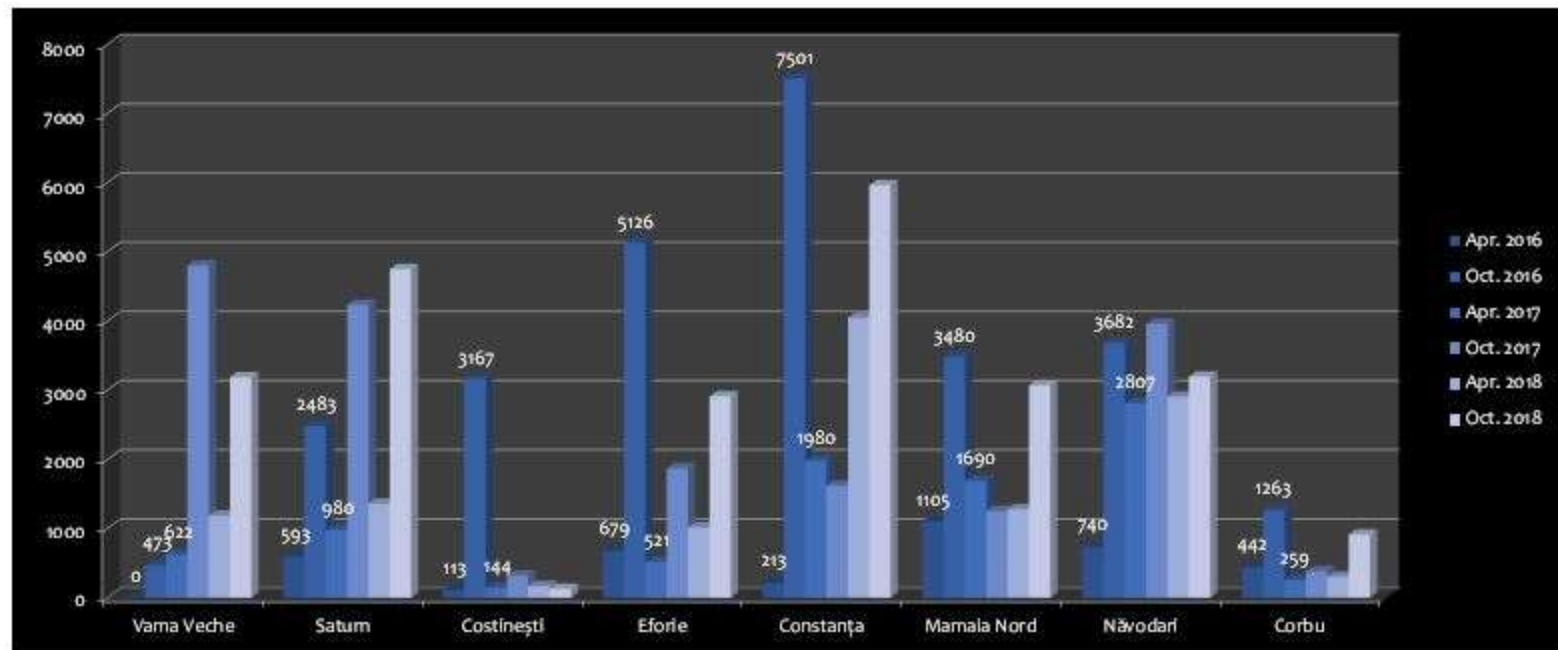
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Marine litter distribution on sectors





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CIGARETTE BUTTS - THE MOST COMMON LITTER REGISTERED

- Constanța (17256)
- Saturn (6 281)
- Vama Veche (5 900)

FACT: Each cigarette contains more than 3 900 chemicals, including nicotine, cyanide, ammonia, cadmium, acetone and arsenic

Besides cigarette butts, among the common items were plastic packs, straws and sticks for mixing, lids, but also bags, plastic bottles, food containers, ear stick, foam/sponge, etc.

Then, were recorded some uncommon elements, but that carries various pathogens: syringes, fresheners for toilets, plums, diapers, medication blisters, condoms and their packing, shaving devices.



* Most of the recordings took place in October 2016, with 16 122 items, from a grand total of 44 992

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CONCLUSIONS

- Waste/ Marine litter density oscillates between 0,5 and 1 item per m²
- The numbers regarding the waste identified are higher after the tourist season than before the tourist season
- One of the most common type of waste identified are cigarettes butts.
- Artificial polymeric materials are on the first place regarding marine litter spread in all of our beach monitoring sessions

OUR PROMISE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

- Mare Nostrum NGO will continue to provide essential data on the marine debris registered at the Romanian seashore
- Marine litter is one of the main activities in our strategic planning.
- We are glad that the results from our beach monitoring sessions got the local and national media attention, who support us constantly in enhancing our messages to the public and authorities. Even more, they have their own marine litter awareness campaigns going viral in offline and online channels.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Mare Nostrum NGO

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