Marine Litter & Marine Mammals Conservation activities in the Black Sea



Prof Ahmet E. KIDEYS

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www.blacksea-commission.org

10th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans Guayaquil, Ecuador, 25th– 27th November 2008

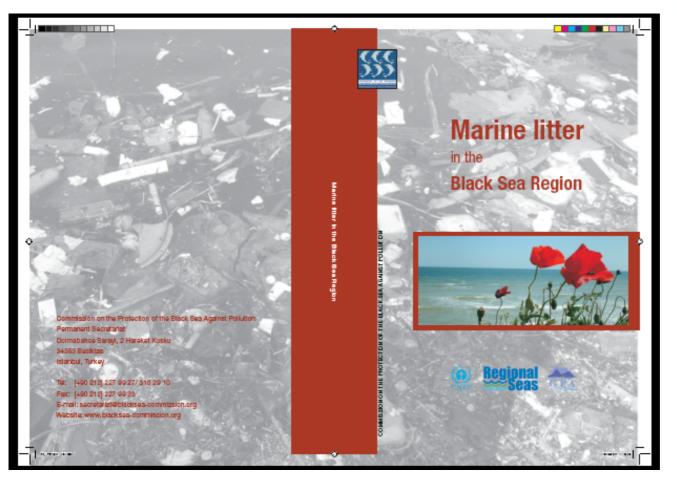
MoU between UNEP-BSC



- **Output A** Publishing report entitled "*Marine litter in the Black Sea Region: A review of the problem*";
- **Output B** Incorporated suitable findings and recommendations from the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan, as applicable for the Black Sea region, into the Strategic Action Plan (SAP);
- **Output C** A pilot activity on *Marine Litter and Marine Mammals Conservation in the Black Sea* jointly by BSC/ACCOBAMS/UNEP

ACCOBAMS: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area

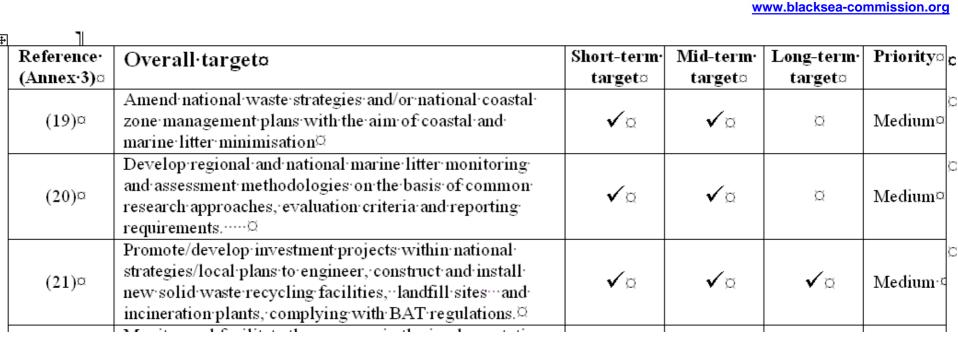
Output A – Marine Litter Report prepared and published (Hard copy as well as at www.blacksea-commission.org)



Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

www.blacksea-commission.org

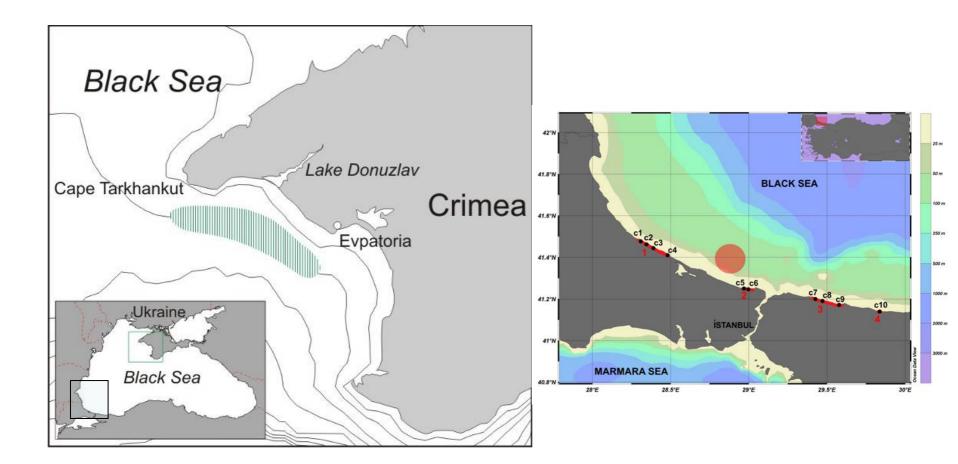
Output B – Suitable findings of the Marine Litter Report incorporated into the updated Strategic Action Plan (SAP, to be signed in 2008)



Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

Output C – A pilot project on "Marine Litter and Marine Mammals Conservation in the Black Sea" jointly by BSC/ACCOBAMS/UNEP







Joint Programme of the BSC PS and ACCOBAMS PS on Marine Litter / Marine Mammals Conservation in the Black Sea

Pilot project

Involvement of Black Sea artisanal fisheries in anti-bycatch and anti-marine litter activities

by Alexei Birkun, Jr.

Black Sea Council for Marine Mammals

and

Brema Laboratory, UKRAINE



RATIONALE

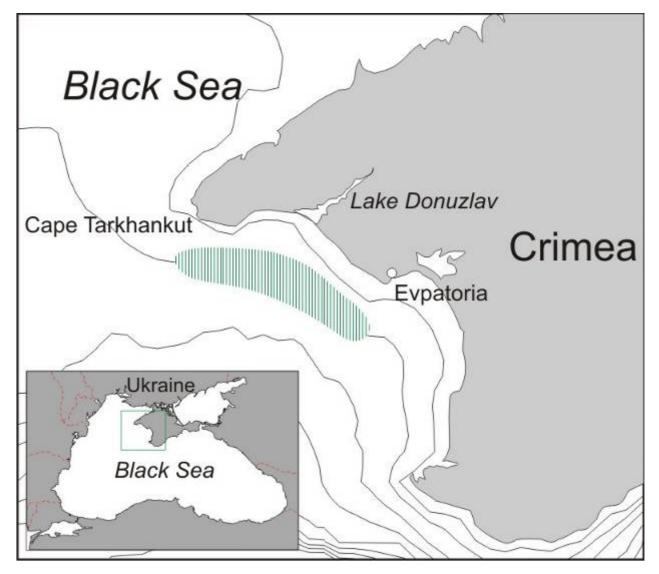
- By-catch, a principal cause of human-induced mortality of Black Sea dolphins.
- Fishery sector contribute to marine litter pollution and additional by-catches by means of so called *ghost fishing* caused by the lost and abandoned fishing nets.
- The extent of these two phenomena are unknown in the region.

OBJECTIVES

□ To study cetacean by-catches and marine litter taken from the sea during normal fishing operations

□ To prepare, publish and disseminate in Ukraine among fishing crews the responsible professional guidelines and propagandistic leaflets regarding marine litter issues and "ghost fishing"

STUDY AREA



Territorial sea of Ukraine off the western Crimea

Vessel used



"Klyon" fishing boat (Sevastopol), 22 m long

NUMBER OF NETS EXAMINED



A total of 1073 nets (78.1 km) during 21 days in March -- June 2008

Cetacean by-catches



Every 10th net (10.1%) contained 1-3 cetaceans. Total number of by-catches amounted to 120 including 118 harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*; 98.3%) and 2 bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*; 1.7%). All cetaceans were found dead. Harbour porpoises were caught by 15.6% of turbot nets and by 5.1% of dogfish nets.



Operations with plastic ML





- pulling-out nets with ML from the sea
- releasing ML items
- collecting in container



recording
delivering to the shore



- sorting
- packing
- drying
- dry
- cleaning
- weighing
- disposal



Numbers, composition and catch rates of plastic ML

A total of 895 pieces of polyethylene film, plastic bags, fragments of solid packaging matter and some other polymer items were recorded in and collected from 397 nets (37.0% of all nets that were examined).

Plastics were found in a good half of turbot nets (51.0%) and in a quarter of dogfish nets (25.3%).

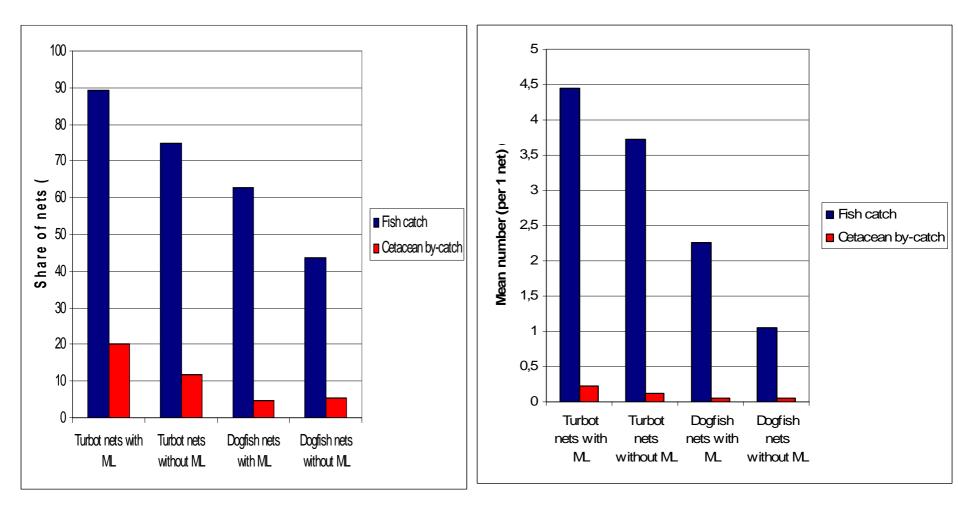
Generally, turbot nets entrapped plastic litter twice as much (14 pieces/*km*) than dogfish ones (7 pieces/*km*).



Two ghost-fishing nets were extracted from the bottom

They contained a lot of mussels and other benthic invertebrates but no fish and cetacean remains were found in them





Turbot nets contained both turbots and cetaceans more often and on a larger scale per one net if they contained also plastic debris.

Raising awareness of fishermen



Рисунки: А. Биркун мл.

Стимеры разраболзаны: КП эЛаборатория Брама» (проспект Кирова 1, к. 600, Симферополь 95015, Украина) при ходействии Постолнного секретариата Комиссии по защите Чёрного море от зарланения (BSC) и Постоянного секретариата Сотпашения о сохранения китообразных Чёрного и Средиземного морей и прилетающих вод Атлантики (ACCOBAMS) е рамках Совиестной программы BSC и ACCOBAMS по испрохому мухору и сохранение морсиих илекопитающих в Чёрном море ило лодеджил Протраммы по регизиальным морем UNEP.

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Pictures: A. Birkun, Jr.

Stickers are prepared by: Brema Laboratory (office #600, Kirov avenue 1, Simferopol 95015, Ukraine)

Supported by: Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) and Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) in frames of the Joint BSC and ACCOBAMS Programme on Marine Litter and Marine Mammals Conservation in the Black Sea, upon consultations with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.





DERELICT FISHING NETS REPRESENT HARMFUL TYPE OF MARINE LITTER



Fishing nets that were lost or abandoned at sea are harmful for the wildlife because they continue to catch fish for nothing and they kill cetaceans. This phenomenon is widespread throughout the world and in the Black Sea, in particular; it was named as a *Ghost Fishing* by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Fisherman, here are three basic modes for your struggle against "phantoms"

- the sea is not a trash dump: don't throw a disabled fishing gear overboard;
- if you lost your net at sea, do all your best to find it;
- · the revealed ghost-nets should be delivered to the shore.

Picture and text A. Birkun, Jr. The leads this been produced by Birren Laboratory (office #800, Kirov evenue 1, Sinsteropol 95016, Ukraine, brema@polucotrov.net/ supported by the Permanent Secretarist of the Black Soc Commission (BSQ) and Permanent Secretarist of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cataceant of the Black Soc, Meditemanean Sea and configurus Atlantic area (ACC0BAMS) in frame of the Joint BSC and ACC0BAMS Programme on Manne Liter and Manne Mammals Conservation in the Black Soc, upon consudations with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

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Joint Programme of the BSC PS and ACOBAMS on Marine Litter and Marine Mammals Conservation in the Black Sea.



PROJECT OF CETACEAN BYCATCH AND STRANDING RELATED TO TURBOT FISHERY AND MARINE LITTER (ML) POLLUTION IN THE WESTERN TURKISH BLACK SEA COAST (BSC-ML/2008)

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Istanbul University, Faculty of Fisheries



Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)

Introduction

Components of the project

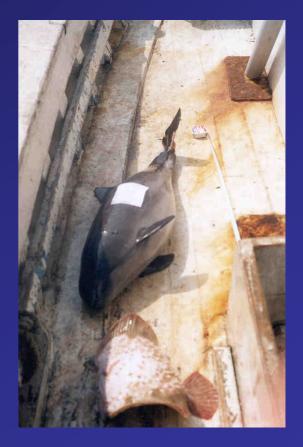
- Turbot fishing operations
 - Cetacean bycatch (MM)
 - Other species in bottom gillnets
 - Marine Litter (ML)
- Coastal surveys
 - Cetacean strandings (MM)
 - Marine Litter (ML)
- Public awareness, education and information exchange regarding ML and cetaceans.

This study began in April 1st 2008 and still continuing.

Turbot fishing operations

The fishing boat used is 12 m long, has a team of 5-6 fishermen and operates in the western part of the Turkish Black Sea.

 Additionally, incidentally caught sharks, rays and birds that are not commercially exploited were recorded.



Turbot fishing operations

 ML / Marine litter in bottom-set fishing nets was collected, dried, counted, weighted and recorded.





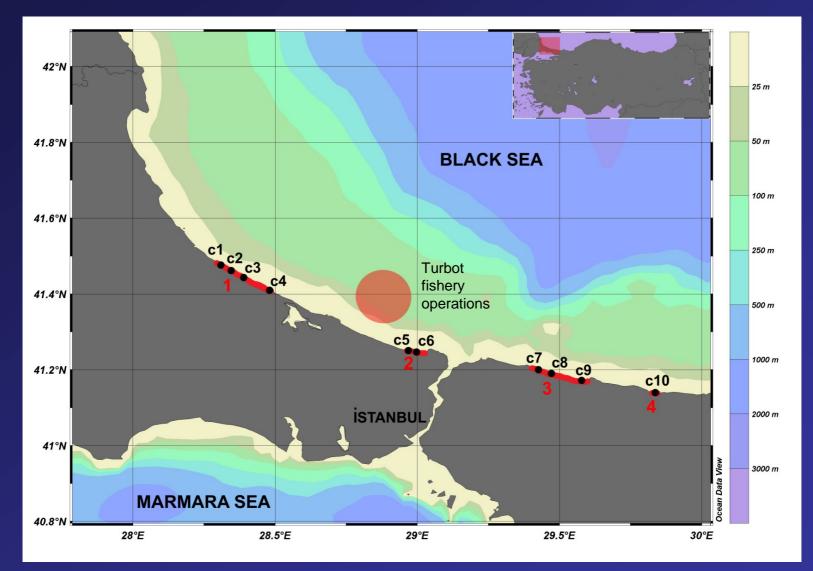
Coastal surveys

The coastal surveys of a 43 km long sandy beach over 200 km seashore are conducted seasonally.

 MM / Stranding cetaceans are recorded, photographed, measured and sampled for further researches.







The Study Area Surveyed beaches (red lines) and marine litter stations (black dots)

Turbot fishing operations

 The fishing observation continued from 2nd April till prohibition period of turbot fishing (1st of May). The boat hauled total 279 bottom gill nets with a soak time of 8-16 days in approximately 130km².

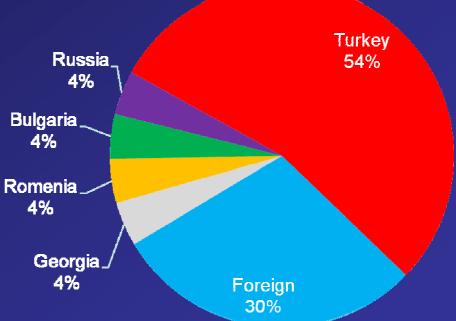
Turbot fishing operations

- Only one Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) was bycaught.
- Total 332 turbots were caught.



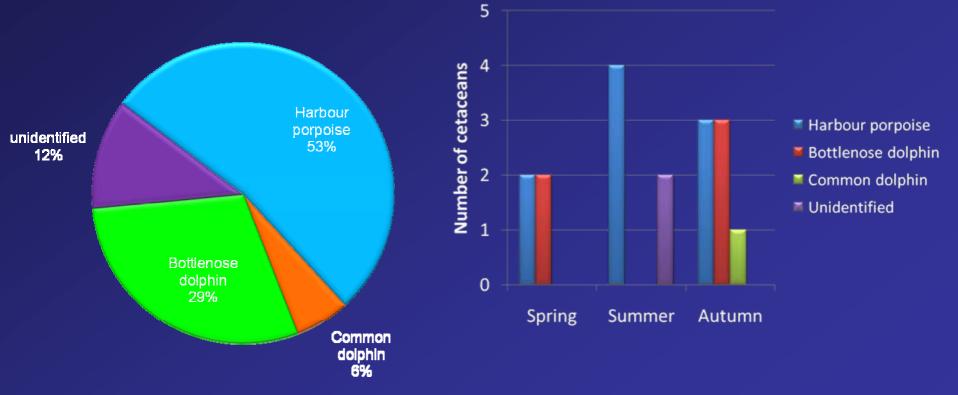
- Turbot fishing operations ML
- Most of them were plastics and nylon bags (94 %).
- Total 4.45kg and 555 items (18.4 pieces/km) were found.
- 24 items were identified for their origin.

Almost half of them were from foreign countries.



Coastal surveys - MM

- Total 17 stranded cetaceans were found; 9 harbour porpoise (53%), 5 bottlenose dolphin(29%), one common dolphin (6%) and two unidentified individuals.
- Strandings per km are 0.09, 0.1 and 0.2 individuals for spring, summer and autumn, respectively.



Coastal surveys – MM

- On Beach1, a 19.7km long sandy beach, 65% of all strandings during three seasons were found.
- The observed individuals ightarrowwere the advanced stage of decomposition. Therefore we could not understand the cause of death. But two harbour porpoises and one common dolphin had characteristic mark of fishing activity.



Coastal surveys – ML

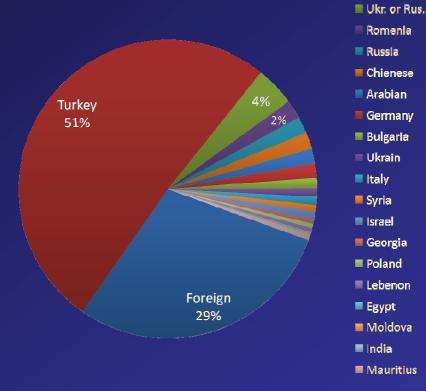
• A total of 10 stations were surveyed for marine litter in spring (April), summer (June) and autumn (October and November).





Coastal surveys – ML

- Total 13,419 items were found.
- More than half of them were collected in autumn period (60.3%).

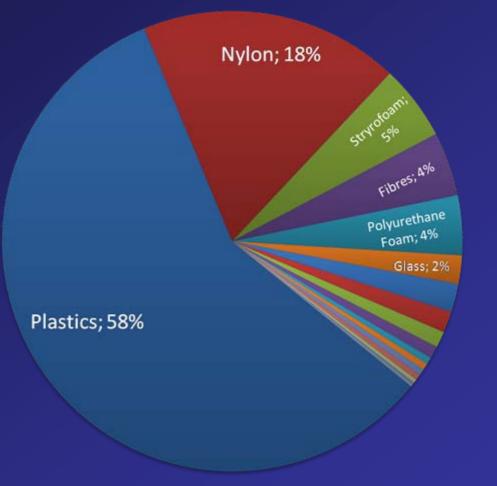




- Half of them were from foreign countries (217items).
- 17 countries of origin were identified .

ResultsCoastal surveys – ML

Plastics materials were the dominant solid waste.



- Cellulose acetate
- Artificial sponge
- Paper
- Metal
- Fabric
- Wooden
- Composite
- Other
- Rubber
- Vinyl
- Cork
- Ceramic

Conclusion

Turbot fishing operations

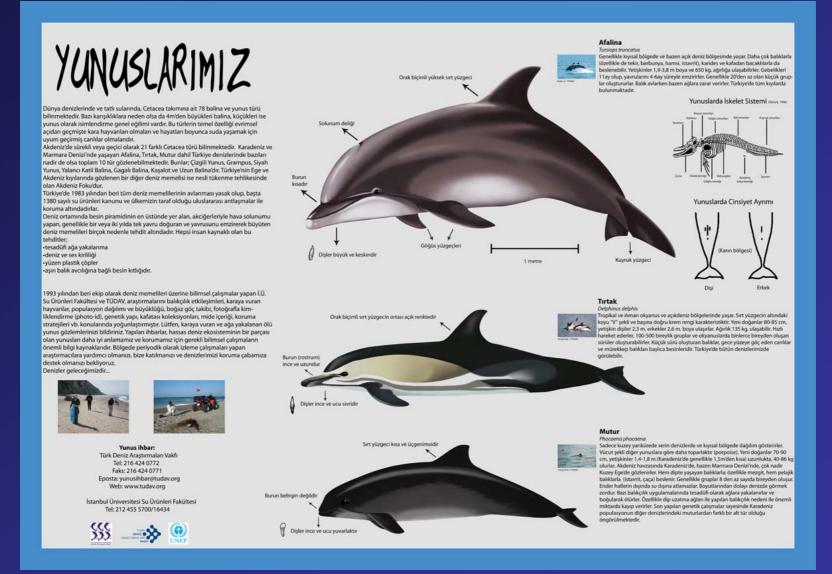
 Cetacean bycaugt number are generally low in April in Turkish Western Black Sea. In May and June, the number is increasing as in previous studies (e.g. Tonay&Öztürk, 2003).

 Marine litter on the seabed is important issue also for cetaceans. According Tonay et al.(2007), plastic debris were found in the stomachs of five Harbour porpoises. The debris in one bycaught individual's stomach consisted of plastic bags and sheeting with dry weight of 40,9g.



Public Awareness

• MM Poster for the fishermen and student. "Our dolphins"



Public Awareness

• ML Poster for fishermen and students.

"Seas are not our garbage dump!"

DENIZLER ÇÖPLÜĞÜMÜZ DEĞILDIR ! Onlar sınırsızlar, her yerdeler ve yüzlerce yıl var olacaklar.. Deniz kirliliği doğrudan veya dolaylı yoldan denize ulaşan sanayi, evsel, tarımsal veya deniz taşıtlarından kaynaklıdır. Ama hepsin 30-40 vil 1 milvon vi kökeni insandır. Her türlü atık akıntı, rüzgar ve deniz hareketleriyle uzak yerlere taşınabilir. Katı atıklar deniz yüzevinde yüzmekte veya dibe batmakta veya deniz hareketleriyle sahillerde karaya vum nlılar bu atiklardan zarar görüyor. Çöplere takiliyor, dolanıyor, yaralanabiliyorlar veya bunları yiyecek sanıp yutarak Plastik pose Misina orlar. Dolayısıyla onlar için ölümcül sonuçlar doğabiliyo 10-20 vil 600 vil Bizlerin enfeksiyon kapmasına ve hasta olmamıza neden oluyorlar. Görüntü kirliliği yaratıyor ve turistlerin bölgeden uzaklaşmasını sağlıyorlar, Balikçıların av araçlarına takılarak zarar veriyorlar. Deniz taşıtlarının pervanelerinde ve gövdelerinde hasara neder Plastik sise lioara izmai Ne yapabiliriz : 450 yıl 1-5 yil Her zaman çöpümüzü çöp kutularına atalım. Çöplerimizi bu kutulara ağızlarını sıkıca bağlayarak koyalım. Denize, sahile, ormana kesinlikle atmayalır muklu ku Sahillerde, piknik yerlerinde eğer çöp kutusu yok ise mutlaka en yakın çöp kutusuna kadar yanımızda taşıyalım Cocuk bezi Sorumlu vatandaş olalım, eğer çöp kutusu yok ise bölge yetkililerinden talep edelim. 1-5 yil Alışveriş yaparken en az ambalajı olan, geri dönüşebilir ve tekrar kullanılabilir (depozitolu) ürünteri seçelim Mümkün olduğu kadar az plastik poşet kullanalım ve yanımızda bez torba veya file taşıyalım. Çöplerimizi geri dönüştürülebilmesi için ayrı çöp kutularında toplayalım. Kontrolai Kendi davranışlarımızla çevremizdekilere örnek olalım. Onlarında doğaya saygılı olmaları gerektiğini nazikçe hatirlatalim. 1-3 yıl Yerel bir cevre örgütüne destek verelim kıvı ve cevre temizleme etkinliklerine katılalır 80-200 yıl Gazete Balıkçılar, lütfen ağlarınızdan çıkan çöpleri karaya getirin ve çöp kutularına atın. Ağlarınızı denizde avlanma sürenizin dışında meyin, onların "hayalet ağ" olmasına izin vermeyin. Bu şekilde yüzlerce deniz canlısı takılacak ve ölüm orakmavin, kaybe 6 hafta seben olacaklardur taban Portakal ve iler, gemilerden kaynaklanan deniz kirliliğini önleme anlaşması (MARPOL)'e göre "Özel bölge" sayılan Akdeniz ve 50-80 yil Karadeniz'de, her türlü plastik ve sentetik maddeler, kağıt, kumaş, cam, metal, ambalaj malzemesinin atılması yasaktır. Ayrıca boyu muz kabudu 12 metreden büyük her teknenin yukarıda sayılan cöplerin denize atılamayacağını belirten bir tabela herkesin göreceği bir yere 2-5 hafta Yerel yetkililer (muhtarlıklar, belediyeler, kooperatifier, liman ve barınak yöneticileri), lütfen gerekli görülen yerlere yeterli sayıda çöp kutuları ve atık depoları yerleştirin ve atıkların düzenli olarak toplanmasını sağlayın. Çöp üretiminin azaltılması, ger 50 vil dönüstürülmesi için atık yönetim sisteminin kurulması gerekmektedir. Halkın katılımını tesvik ederek sahillerde ve doğada çöp topla 2-4 hafta zlik faaliyetleri organize etmenizi öneririz 50 yıl

Public Awereness

Additional Activities MM / ML

• The field study of the project was filmed by "Iz Tv" (Turkish documentary channel). The film was shown more than 5 times in a documentary series which named "Garbage dump in the Bosphorus".

Snapshots



Public Awareness

Additional Activities ML

A photo exhibition was organized, which named "New Species..." in Sofia BS-HOT Conference.











MoU between UNEP-BSC

Was good !

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Thank you for your attention...