Microplastics in the marine environment: some results from the MSFD
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Guidance on Monitoring of Marine Litter in European Seas


2013
Microplastics size?

< 1mm or < 5 mm

Both limits are valid but we should encourage to use definitions that can help in the knowledge like a puzzle.

Mainly dependent on the separation process from the matrix.
Matrix

- Seawater.
- Sediments and beaches.
- Biota.
Water
Mainly using nets (manta trawl) but also other instrumentation like CPR.

Biota
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Identification of MPs

Separation of MPs with microscope is very dependent on the abilities of the operator. FTIR methodology is the most common tool used. In our guidelines we recommend to identify a polymer if 60% of their spectra are similar.
Emerging issues.