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**REPORT ON TASK 2.3.2. CLEAN UP OF THE SEA-FLOOR AND COAST AT THE ISLAND OF LOŠINJ,
CROATIA, 18/05/2019**

On Saturday, 18th of May 2019 the Blue World Institute has organized clean up of the sea-floor and the coast at three bays at the island of Lošinj. This local event was organized for local community as a part of the Task 2.3.2. of the 'marGnet' project co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Additional co-financing was provided by Croatian Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION:

1. General improving of the status of marine environment in the intervention area by reducing the amounts of marine litter (ML) on the sea-floor.
2. Raising awareness of the ML problem and of negative impacts of ML in the environment
3. Improving the understanding of the local community members of the problem of ML on the sea-floor.
4. Inducing behavioral change among the various stakeholders.
5. Promotion of the 'marGnet' project and sustainable practices for protection of the marine environment.

PARTICIPANTS:

Several local stakeholders groups from The 'marGnet' Stakeholders Map were involved in the preparation and organisation of this event:

Blue World Institute Team – coordinators of the action

Divers – Diving Center Sub Sea Son as coordinator of the diving activities, Diving Centre Benthos, local Spear Fishing Club 'Udica'

- In total 18 divers were diving and cleaning the sea-floor

Authorities – City of Mali Lošinj – issuing the licence for the action and inviting volunteers to join it

- Community of Veli Lošinj – providing volunteers on the coast

Port Authorities – Harbormaster's Office Mali Lošinj and Port Authority Mali Lošinj - issuing the licences for the action

Fishermen – 2 local fishermen joined the action as volunteers who were taking garbage from divers

Waste Managers – local waste management service – Komunalne usluge Cres-Lošinj who were accepting the garbage collected on the sea-floor and on the coast at the specialized eco-boat and 2 containers at the coast

Other - Mali Lošinj Tourist Bord – promotion of the event; local Sailing Club 'Jugo' providing one

supporting boat; many individual volunteers

In total there were 60 participants among which 18 divers, 30 volunteers supporting dive clean up with 7 boats and 12 volunteers cleaning the adjacent beaches.



TIME and LOCATIONS:

The action was taking place at three locations at the same time on **18 th of May 2019 from 9 AM to 12**. All the locations are under the jurisdiction of Harbormaster's Office Mali Lošinj and Port Authority Mali Lošinj :

1. Valdarke Bay – deep sheltered bay at the eastern coast of the island of Lošinj serving as anchoring point with small pier for fishing boats and some privat local boats (no restaurants and bars on the surrounding coast)
 - sandy sea-floor
2. Rovenska Bay – small fishing port at the eastern coast of the island of Lošinj with the pier and pontoons for fishing boats and privat local boats with 3 restaurants on the adjacent coast
 - sandy/muddy sea-floor with some pebbels
3. Veli Lošinj Harbor – small harbor at the eastern coast of the island of Lošinj with the pier for tourist and fishing boats privat local boats with 3 restaurants and 4 bars on the adjacent coast
 - sandy/muddy sea-floor with some pebbels



ACTIVITIES:

At the preparation stage two coordination meetings were held with representatives of the local stakeholders – on 5th of April and on 7th of May 2019. Day before the event, on 17th of May the participants gathered at Lošinj marine Education Centre for the final detailed arrangement of the action. For this occasion two expert presentations were organized for all the participants– „Ecology of marine turtles and the threat of marine litter“ and „Underwater archeological sites at the Lošinj Archipelago“ as a additional education programme.

During the clean up action the participants were split in 4 teams – one on each diving location and one team on the coast cleaning the beaches. At each location there where acception points arranged with the local waste management company – 2 containers on the coast and 1 on the specialized eco-boat situated at the bay of Valdarke. The divers were transported to the exact diving point by 3 boats. 18 divers were diving in pairs collecting the ML on the sea-floor. ML collected was taken by volunteers at the supporting boats and on the coast and transported to the nearest acception points. At the acception points trained voluteers were keeping notes on the types and the amounts of the ML collected using DeFishGear data collection form. The local waste management service – Komunalne usluge Cres-Lošinj arranged proper disposal of the collected ML at the local waste transfer station. Some parts of the fishing gear collected were taken by local people for recycling (some fishing pots). Before, after and during the action local and regional media were informed on all the activities undertaken – 2 radio stations, regional newspaper and 2 news portal reported on the action.

After the action, for all the participants there was a lunch organized at Veli Lošinj Port and visit to the archeological Museum of Apoxyomenos in Mali Lošinj later in the afternoon.



RESULTS:

In total **10 m³ or 2 t of wet weight** were collected during the **3 hours** of the action in **3 bays** and on **55 m** of the adjacent coast.

Categories:

Plastic - 315 kg

Glass – 150 kg

Rubber – 205 kg

Metal – 830 kg

Wood (machined) – 128 kg

Wood (natural) – 146 kg

Concrete blocks – 208 kg

ML related to Fisheries and Aquaculture:

Fishing pots – 11 pcs (85 kg)

Ropes – 106 pcs (43 kg)

Nylon nets – 47 pcs (27 kg)

Nets from other materials – 53 pcs (86 kg)

Fishing lines entangled – 39 pcs

Fishing lines – 4 pcs

Plastic buoys – 12 pcs

Fuel canisters -13 pcs

Plastic buckets – 8 pcs

Fiber-glass pieces of the boats – 15 pcs

Plastic fish boxes – 16

Fragments of EPS fish boxes (on the coast) – 102 pcs

Fenders – 3 pcs

Shellfish farming socks – 23 pcs

The occurrence of entangled and attached marine organisms was very low, mainly consisting of few brown algae species, several species of Crustaceans (Malacostraca), sponges *Phorbastenacior* and *Crambe crambe*, tunicata – *Halocynthia papillosa*, Polyplacofora and Bryozoa. Live organisms were properly taken back in to the sea whenever it was possible to do so.



OUTPUTS:

- Improved knowledge of local stakeholders of the type and location of ML in the area;
- Proposal of stakeholders for the establishment of the local management plan for clean up actions in the area of the City of Mali Lošinj.

