



**Centre for the Ocean
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UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Blurred interface: How lack of coordination between governance levels delays waste management in fishing harbours

Arctic Plastics symposium, Reykjavik 22-23 November 2023

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NORWAY

LOW / HILLS / MOUNTAINS



The context

- **Up to 80 %** Norwegian sources
- Fishing and aquaculture
- Commercial fisheries - **380 tons** of marine plastic pollution
- Fishing for Litter – for large vessels in large harbors
- Most Norwegian fishing vessels belong to the coastal fleet
 - Attend smaller fishing ports
 - Often lacking adequate waste solutions
- Many initiatives, but we have to do more, and more coordinated actions

- Industry and research agree: **waste management is crucial!**



Zero draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

- Each party shall cooperate and take effective measures, including appropriate marking, tracing and reporting requirements, to prevent, reduce and eliminate, abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear containing plastic, taking into account internationally agreed rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures
- Parties shall promote synergy and complementarity with relevant initiatives and organizations in their respective actions towards safe disposal of fishing gear



UNITED
NATIONS



United Nations
Environment
Programme

Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop
an international legally binding instrument on plastic
pollution, including in the marine environment
Third session
Nairobi, 13–19 November 2023*
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on
plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

UNEP/PP/INC.3/4

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Zero draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Note by the secretariat

1. United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14 requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee, to begin its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024. The intergovernmental negotiating committee is to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities.
2. Furthermore, UNEA resolutions 1/6, 2/11, 3/7, 4/6, 4/7 and 4/9 have also affirmed the urgent need to strengthen global coordination, cooperation and governance to take immediate action towards the long-term elimination of plastic pollution in marine and other environments, and to avoid detriment from plastic pollution to ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them.
3. At its second session, the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, requested the Chair, with the support of the secretariat, to prepare a Zero Draft of the international legally binding instrument called for by UNEA resolution 5/14, for consideration at its third session. The draft would be guided by the views expressed at the committee's first and second sessions. The full range of views could be indicated in the draft text through options.
4. In response to that request, the Chair has prepared, with the support of the secretariat, the Zero Draft set out in the annex to the present note for the consideration of the committee.

PAME – Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic

- Actions to reduce input from fisheries and aquaculture include those aimed at reduction of operational losses/net cuttings; extended recovery, reuse, and recycling of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG); and improvement of waste management onboard fishing vessels, at aquaculture installations, and at port reception facilities



Existing legal framework

- EU law is incorporated into Norwegian law
- The national legal framework is in place
- All commercial fishing ports must have approved waste plans and waste management systems

But...

- The legislation is of little help if it is not complied with and enforced



Updated ship waste directive since October 2023



§20-5: Establishment and operation of waste management facilities

Responsibility on the harbor responsible

But what if we don't know who is responsible?

§20-6: Waste management plans and reporting

§20-9: Waste management fees

§20-10: Calculation of fees

Tromsø has large ambitions

In 2018, local political leadership declared that Tromsø would become a plastic free city:

- «...develop *even better facilities in the districts for reception of waste, such as in fishing harbors*»
- «*All harbors will have reception facilities for hazardous waste*»

But five years later – little has been done

Shared responsibility, but lack of coordination

This is in line with the general observations of the Norwegian Directorate for Fisheries, as described in its Action plan against marine pollution:

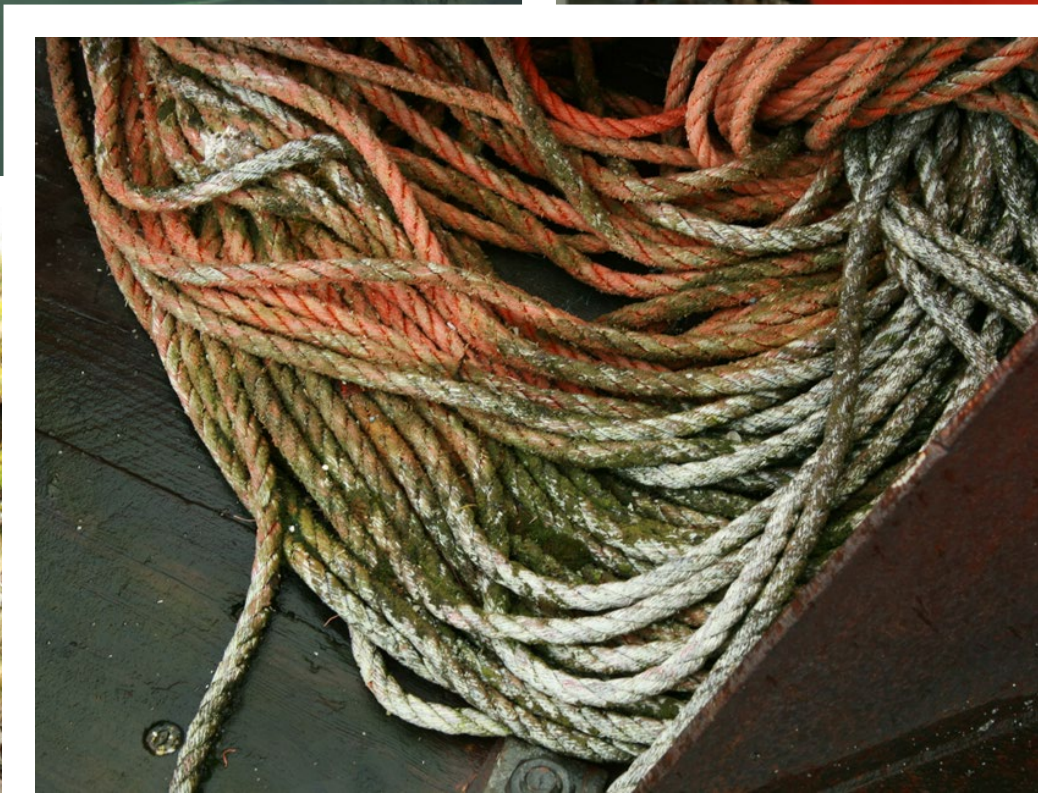
«It is essential with close dialogue and cooperation between entities and actors [with responsibility for waste management]. By sharing knowledge and cooperate on measures, we can be more efficient in the work towards a clean ocean».











What are the different actors saying?

Harbours

- Great variety
- Appreciate being approached
- Increased awareness
- 'Plastic fatigue'
- Reluctant to invest in unclear plans

Local waste management

- Highly innovative – wants to do more
- Critical mass
- Wants more interaction between all stakeholders

Tromsø municipality

- Great framework – on paper
- Financing is an issue
- Deficiency of manpower and dedicated resources
- Waiting for clear direction from the The Norwegian Environment Agency
- Somewhat blurred interaction with the County Governor

Lack of coordination!



What's next?

Round table talks

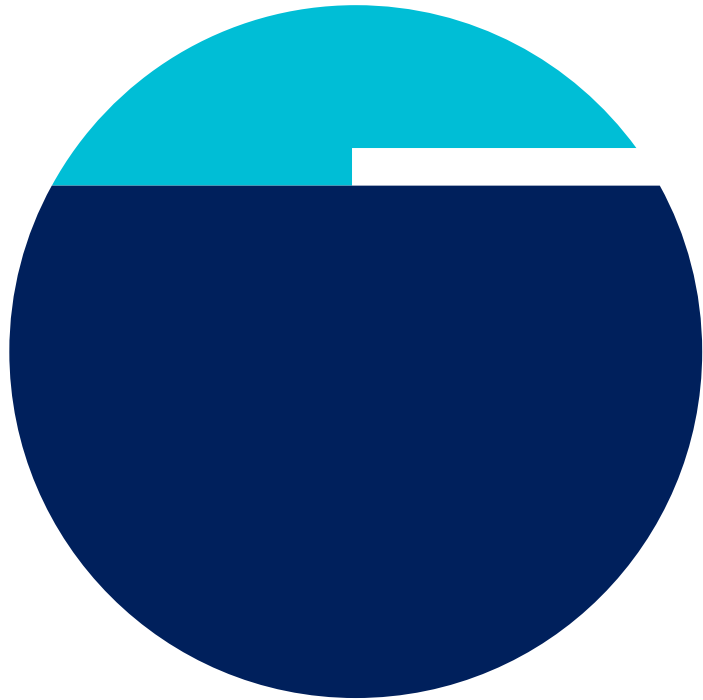


- Actors who want to step up
- Activities to be started ASAP
- Deep dive into the new ship waste directive
- How it can be applied to the small harbors
- Design long term solutions
- Map already existing fees, ex. oil products – to whose benefit?
- Investigate costs per vessel size
- Alternative financial solutions
- Main aim: Bring the waste to the waste management company





Thank you for the attention!



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