

Online, 23-25 April 2025

Document title	CCB contribution on coastal clean-ups and ML monitoring
Code	4-7
Category	INF
Agenda Item	Marine litter
Submission date	23.4.2025
Submitted by	CCB
Reference	

Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Session whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.

Background

This document provides a summary of CCB contribution on coastal clean-ups and marine litter monitoring.

Action requested

The Session is invited to take note of the information.

CCB contribution on coastal clean-ups and ML monitoring

Coast Watch - (Education/Public Pollution Monitoring)

This task contributes to implementation of actions HT27 and HT28 of HELCOM BSAP 2021

In 2023 [CoastWATCH manual](#) was prepared and published. Manual based on inputs from national experience, where such initiatives exist and arranging national workshops and international gatherings of CoastWATCH network. Based on CoastWatch manual the following activities were prepared and conducted:

- Coastal Watch [Training 4 April 2024](#) for partner from Save the Baltic Sea expedition project and CCB Youth group. [About cooperation with Save the Baltic Sea](#). [Video about cooperation with Save the Baltic Sea](#).

Some results of Save the Baltic Sea plastic monitoring: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#)

- [CCB CoastWatch training](#) for CCB MO and partners took place in Riga, Latvia on April 22 (before CCB Annual meeting). 16 participants from member organizations took part, training included workshop and CCB CoastWatch manual presentation and practical activities – monitoring of plastic pollution on Jurmala coastal area.

- In 2024 [Our Common Baltic an educational course](#) was dedicated to CoastWatch activities, Plastic monitoring and promotion of citizen science approach.

– CoastWatch [presentation](#) and [practical activities](#).

– Citizen science [presentation](#).

The topic of plastic pollution received a response in the [final projects](#) of the course participants.

- CoastWatch training and practical activities in frame of [Baltic Climate School](#) (Sep 2024)

- CoastWatch activities of MO and partners:

– Latvia (LaGM): Coast Watch - Pollution Monitoring; 7 coastal schools in October participated in Coast Watch and reported their findings in Surveys. Liepupe, Roja, Salacgriva and Ventspils Secondary school No 4 were participating with 10 teams and around 45 participants.

– Estonia (Rohelinn): [TV report](#) Coast watch 4 events ([October](#), [May](#) and [April](#) 2024) and Brand audit 3 events ([May](#), [May](#) and [September](#) 2024) Participants reported their findings in CoastWatch and Brands Audit surveys.

Three brand audit workshops were held with students (ages 12-15), and two workshops were conducted with local communities (ages 2-40). In total, over 150 people participated in these sessions. The data collected was compiled into reports that were shared with the relevant stakeholders, raising awareness about local brands contributing to plastic pollution.

Four CoastWatches held at two different beaches in Tallinn and the surrounding area, both in spring and fall. Participants helped collect data on pollution levels, contributing to the ongoing effort to protect the Baltic Sea

Clean Games – Coastal CleanUps

This task contributes to implementation of actions HT27 and HT28 of HELCOM BSAP 2021

Since 2019 the work on marine and other coastal litter has been focused on coastal cleanup events, including its gamification, using e.g. Clean Games approach.

In 2024, CCB continued maintaining a beach litter-monitoring network in the BSR gathering knowledge and data following the Clean Games approach and involving more partners into its implementation. Cleanups may not solve environmental problems, but they serve as an accessible starting point for environmental activists and help raise awareness of environmental issues among a broad audience. **The use of Clean games and gamification in clean-up efforts has resulted in member and partner organizations adopting various formats to engage more participants, targeting a diverse range of audiences.** The following 2024 results of the clean-ups were reported:

Latvian Green Movement organized [in Clean Games, May 24](#), 2024 in Ventspils former Army Poligon. Participated 57 participants. The waste was collected and transported. 3 Schools were involved. 2 winners of the CG 2024 took part in the event, the Talsi Primary School and the Upesgriva Primary School. Good cooperation was established with the local municipality - Ventspils Regional Council and the Latvian State Forests company. [Social media link](#).

Estonian NGO Rohelinn organized [TRASH] Patrol – Ploggers club in Tallinn: This was a major success, with 12 plogging events held during the fall of 2024. The events attracted a variety of participants who combined jogging with environmental clean-up efforts. This initiative helped raise awareness of the importance of maintaining clean public spaces while promoting fitness. [Social media link](#).

[TRASH] tours – guided tours during which participants explore the natural features of the area (bird watching, protected natural areas, etc.) and collect and sort the found garbage. More than 10 events were conducted in 2024. [Social media link](#).

On 21.09.2024, a clean-up day on the banks of the Vistula River in Warsaw, Poland was attended by 15 people organized by NGO Nerush, Poland.