

Pinpointing challenges and needs in industry and public sector

Jessica Hjerpe Olausson

Marine litter

The challenge of monitoring seafloor litter



Maja Högvik, Analyst

Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management

Marine litter

- » Marine litter has negative effects on our marine environment as well as on tourism and recreational values
- » Fishing gear poses a particular threat as it can ghost fish for many years
- » Plastic material breaks into microplastics

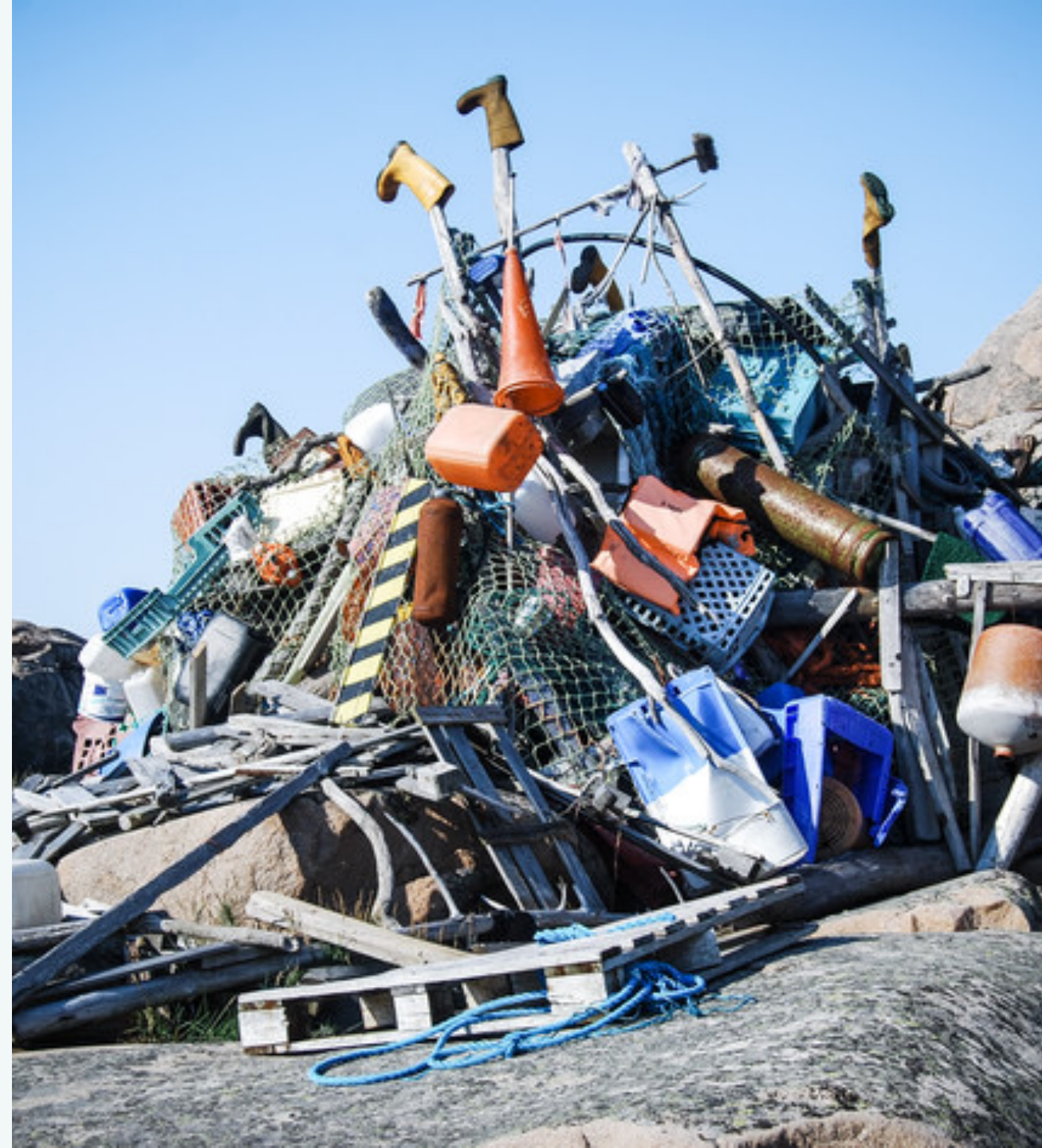


Measures and monitoring

- » SwAM implements measures to reduce the amount of marine litter
- » Collaboration and coordination at both European and regional level (EU, Ospar, Helcom)
- » Monitoring important to inform the right policy decisions and is conducted on beaches and on the seafloor
 - Beaches (calculate and categorize on a number of reference beaches)
 - The seafloor (piggyback on ICES fish studies)

Challenge

- » Currently exploring new methodologies to monitor seafloor litter
- » The idea is to complement trawling data with observations or imaging methods
- » **Are there smart, cost-efficient ways to capture photos of the seafloor (and of beaches)?**
- » **Are there techniques available that could help us analyse the information?**





Thank you!

**Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management**

