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Doc.24.4.1 Marine Debris

CMS COP12 Regional Preparatory Workshop for Asia



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- The largest component of marine debris is plastic making up over three quarters of total quantities
- Macroplastics
 - The two major associated risks for marine species are entanglement in and ingestion of marine debris
 - An estimated ten per cent of global marine litter is “ghost gear” or abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)



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- Microplastics

- Generally defined as items smaller than 5mm
- Some are manufactured as such (primary microplastics), others are fragments from disintegrating larger pieces (secondary microplastics)
- Act as a 'sponges' removing and concentrating contaminants from the water, leading to bioaccumulation in food chain



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- The CMS COP previously adopted two resolutions on marine debris
- These were consolidated in Doc.21.2.13
- In order to and incorporate recent developments, Doc.24.4.1 proposes revisions to the consolidated version
- Proposed new text is underlined
- Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~
- Existing, already adopted, text should not be renegotiated



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- Brought in line with UNEA Resolution 2/11 on Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics (2016)
- Changes to the preamble: to update and make more comprehensive
- Operative part:
 - Short term: minimize marine litter inputs through improved waste collection and management
 - Longer-term: more circular economy, in which waste, including plastic waste, is minimized by being designed out of the production cycle (the UN Environment 6Rs concept: Reduce – Redesign – Remove – Re-use – Recycle – Recover)
 - Expand recommendations on microplastics and ALDFG



Thank you for your attention!

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