

The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College
in the University of Toronto presents the

2018 Charlevoix G7 Interim Compliance Report

10 June 2018 — 10 December 2018

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"We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That's why today's outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance."

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in *G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit*

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16. Environment: Marine Litter

“Further, we will promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.”

Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities

Assessment

| Country | Lack of Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Canada | | | +1 |
| France | | 0 | |
| Germany | | 0 | |
| Italy | | 0 | |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | 0 | |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | +0.50 | | |

Background

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), “marine litter” is defined as “any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment. Marine litter consists of items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded into the sea or rivers or on beaches; brought indirectly to the sea with rivers, sewage, stormwater or winds; accidentally lost, including material lost at sea in bad weather (fishing gear, cargo); or deliberately left by people on beaches and shores.”²²⁸⁸ Examples of marine litter include marine debris, anthropogenic underwater noise, accumulated physical waste and more.²²⁸⁹ The issue of marine litter affects coastal biodiversity, marine life, and ecosystems, all of which directly influence human well-being. Thus, actions to prevent and address waste in oceans have been undertaken by the G7 members since previous commitments, such as that made in the communiqué adopted at the G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting.²²⁹⁰

Marine litter is included in target 14.1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The target states: “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.”²²⁹¹ Similarly, this timeline and goal are found in paragraph 163 of the Rio+20 Declaration adopted in 2013.²²⁹²

²²⁸⁸ Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, UNEP (Nairobi) April 2009. Access Date: 27 August 2018.

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/10744/MarineLitterAglobalChallenge.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

²²⁸⁹ Recommendation Adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, UNEP (Nairobi) 3 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-20/sbstta-20-rec-05-en.pdf>

²²⁹⁰ Communiqué G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 May 2016. Access Date: 31 August 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2016-environment.html>

²²⁹¹ Sustainable Development Goal 14, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (New York) Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14>

²²⁹² Future We Want — Outcome Document, Sustainable Development Knowledge Network (New York) 27 July 2012. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

In the context of the G7, the agenda of protecting marine environments can be traced back to the Elmau summit in 2015, under Germany's G7 presidency.²²⁹³ One of the outcomes of the Elmau summit was the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, which can be found in the annex of the Leaders' Declaration published on 8 June 2015.²²⁹⁴ The Leaders' Declaration itself also acknowledges the global challenge posed by marine litter, and commits to "priority actions and solutions to combat marine litter ... stressing the need to address land- and sea-based sources, removal actions, as well as education, research, and outreach."²²⁹⁵

On 25-26 January 2016, the Japanese G7 presidency hosted a G7 workshop in Tokyo titled "Standardization and Harmonization of Marine Litter Monitoring."²²⁹⁶ The workshop aimed to foster agreement and identify gaps regarding methods and metrics applied to monitor marine litter among G7 members.²²⁹⁷ The workshop hosted scientific and environmental experts, as well as representatives from the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Japan.²²⁹⁸

On 27 May 2016, the G7 summit in Japan produced the Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration. The document reaffirmed the G7's commitment to "address marine litter, recognizing that our efforts on resource efficiency and the 3Rs also contribute to the prevention and reduction of marine litter, particularly plastic, from land-based sources."²²⁹⁹ In the same summit cycle, the Toyama environment ministers' meeting similarly acknowledged the need for climate adaptation in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.²³⁰⁰ The Toyama meeting also reaffirmed the importance of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, recalling the outcomes of the Elmau summit.

On 15-17 May 2017, under the Italian G7 presidency, the Tsukuba communiqué produced at the G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting referred to the issue of marine litter in the context of further research.²³⁰¹ The document "reaffirmed the importance of our scientific work to better understand the extent and impacts of marine litter," and the language of this commitment was echoed at the Charlevoix summit via the commitment analyzed by this report.²³⁰²

²²⁹³ Report from the 10th Meeting of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter (TGML), European Commission — Directorate-General Joint Research Centre — Institute for Environment and Sustainability (Palermo) 6-7 April 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018.

http://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/TG_ML_Meeting/MSFD_TGMarine_Litter_meetingminutesPalermo.pdf

²²⁹⁴ Annex to the Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 July 2018.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-annex-en.pdf>

²²⁹⁵ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 July 2018.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

²²⁹⁶ G7 Marine Litter Workshop, NOAA Office of response and Restoration (Tokyo) 5 February 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/media/g7-marine-litter-workshop.html>

²²⁹⁷ G7 Marine Litter Workshop, NOAA Office of response and Restoration (Tokyo) 5 February 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/media/g7-marine-litter-workshop.html>

²²⁹⁸ G7 Marine Litter Workshop, NOAA Office of response and Restoration (Tokyo) 5 February 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/about/media/g7-marine-litter-workshop.html>

²²⁹⁹ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

²³⁰⁰ G7 Environment Ministers Communiqué, Toyama Meeting, United Nations Climate Change (Toyama) 17 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <https://unfccc.int/news/g7-environment-ministers-communique-toyama-meeting>

²³⁰¹ Tsukuba Communiqué, G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting (Tsukuba) 17 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/others/20160517communiqu.pdf>

²³⁰² Tsukuba Communiqué, G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting (Tsukuba) 17 May 2016. Access Date: 21 July 2018. <http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/others/20160517communiqu.pdf>

On 20-21 April 2017, the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea co-hosted a Workshop on Marine Litter with UNEP and the Mediterranean Action Plan.²³⁰³ The workshop discussed methods to implement the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, as well as aspects of the issue area such as pollution of coastlines and ocean floors, sustainable growth, recycling culture, fisheries industries, best practices nationally and regionally, and monitoring systems.²³⁰⁴ This workshop also produced a report titled “Mainstreaming the Work of the Regional Seas Programmes Towards the Better Implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the Achievement of Global Commitments on Marine Litter.”²³⁰⁵

On 20 April 2017, Italy hosted a G7 workshop on the topic of marine litter in Rome. The workshop was titled “Actions and Strategies on Harmonization of Monitoring Procedures of Microplastics in the Ocean — A Cooperation Programme for Pursuing the Accuracy of Data.”²³⁰⁶ This workshop hosted representatives from the Office of Marine Environment in the Japanese Ministry of the Environment. The event emphasized the collective pledge reached at the Toyoma environmental ministers’ meeting, which commits the G7 to reduce marine litter by taking action to collect and remove plastics before they degrade into micro-plastics.²³⁰⁷

On 9 June 2018, at the Charlevoix summit in Canada, the majority of G7 members agreed and signed on to the Ocean Plastics Charter.²³⁰⁸ This Charter emerged out of an ambitious commitment to combat marine waste by endorsing a zero-plastics waste model. However, this document was not joined by the United States and Japan.²³⁰⁹

Marine litter is key to ocean health, which is one of the core summit priorities of the Charlevoix 2018 summit under the Canadian presidency.²³¹⁰ The issue of marine litter is not only vital for marine sustainability and human health — but it is also closely related to transitions to circular economies and sustainable development.

²³⁰³ G7 Workshop on Marine Litter, Italian G7 Presidency 2017 (Rome) 21 April 2018. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<http://www.g7italy.it/en/news/g7-workshop-marine-litter>

²³⁰⁴ G7 Workshop on Marine Litter, Italian G7 Presidency 2017 (Rome) 21 April 2018. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<http://www.g7italy.it/en/news/g7-workshop-marine-litter>

²³⁰⁵ Mainstreaming the Work of the Regional Seas Programmes Towards the Better Implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the Achievement of Global Commitments on Marine Litter, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Rome) 21 April 2017. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/Background_Document_ML_FINA_L.pdf

²³⁰⁶ Actions and Strategies on Harmonization of Monitoring Procedures of Microplastics in the Ocean — A Cooperation Programme for Pursuing the Accuracy of Data, Office of Marine Environment — Ministry of the Environment, Japan (Rome) 20 April 2017. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/g7_ml_presentation_Japan.pdf

²³⁰⁷ Actions and Strategies on Harmonization of Monitoring Procedures of Microplastics in the Ocean — A Cooperation Programme for Pursuing the Accuracy of Data, Office of Marine Environment — Ministry of the Environment, Japan (Rome) 20 April 2017. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/g7_ml_presentation_Japan.pdf

²³⁰⁸ Annex: G7 Ocean Plastics Charter, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html#annex>

²³⁰⁹ Annex: G7 Ocean Plastics Charter, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/oceans-blueprint.html#annex>

²³¹⁰ Canada’s G7 Themes, G7 2018 Charlevoix (Ottawa) 14 December 2017. Access Date: 21 July 2018.
<https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/>

Commitment Features

At the Charlevoix summit, G7 leaders pledged to “promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.”

This excerpt from the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities is identified as a commitment because the term “promote” indicates the G7’s collective intention to impose politically binding obligations on G7 members to change or improve their behavior in this issue area. “Promote” is understood as actions that “support or renew old efforts or create new efforts in the area. It should not have to be a brand new initiative. To contribute to growth or prosperity of, to help bring into being.”²³¹¹

This commitment contains two parts: 1) “the promotion of harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter,” and 2) the promotion of “collaboration on research on the impacts of marine litter, in cooperation with institutions such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).”

The first part of the commitment requires G7 members to promote ventures and efforts to harmonize various approaches to marine litter. “Harmonization” is defined as making diverging actions consistent and/or compatible. In the context of this commitment, “harmonization” requires G7 members to collaborate and standardize or coordinate respective national and regional approaches to marine litter.

Moreover, “monitoring methodologies” is defined as a body of methods, rules, or procedures that enable observations of a particular biological condition. In this commitment, “monitoring methodologies for marine litter” refer to the act of overseeing marine health by assessing waste accumulation in oceans and coastal environments. Such methodologies refer to actions such as standardized measurement, evaluation, and reporting on the indicators, types, impacts, sources, and quantities of marine debris.²³¹² Technical examples of monitoring technologies include but are not limited to: visual observation and survey of sea surfaces, trawl surveys of the sea floor, or studies of marine litter as ingested by marine animal species.²³¹³

To fulfill the first part of the commitment, G7 members must engage in transboundary cooperation to align their policies and actions regarding marine litter, either through existing initiatives or the creation of new programs. Such actions must be specific regarding the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter, rather than for marine litter more generally.

The second part of this commitment requires the G7 member to promote collaborative research on the impacts and consequences of marine litter. Partners of such collaboration can refer to but are not limited to, the international community or various organs of the public and private sector. To achieve compliance in this part of the commitment, the G7 member must both demonstrate efforts to expand its investigative endeavors and specifically strive to do so in the context of partnerships, with priority given to collaboration with the UN Environment Programme as identified in the commitment.

²³¹¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 27 August 2018.

²³¹² Methodologies for Monitoring Marine Litter in the Coastal and Marine Environment, SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism (Alger) 7-8 November 2017. Access Date: 27 August 2018. <https://www.swim-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Marine-litter-monitoring-methodologies.pdf>

²³¹³ Methodologies for Monitoring Marine Litter in the Coastal and Marine Environment, SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism (Alger) 7-8 November 2017. Access Date: 27 August 2018. <https://www.swim-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Marine-litter-monitoring-methodologies.pdf>

“Cooperation” is defined as “the action or process of working together to the same end.”²³¹⁴ “Collaboration on research” is understood as working jointly with other institutions to investigate, experiment, or collect information with the purpose of discovering and interpreting facts and trends. “Impact” is defined as the “marked effect or influence” resulting from a particular phenomenon. Thus, research conducted by G7 members must include reference to the impacts of marine litter, ie. it cannot focus exclusively on the causes of marine litter without consideration of outcomes.

UNEP is listed as a notable example of a facilitative partner for collaborative research. UN Environment, or UNEP, is a United Nations agency that serves as the “leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.”²³¹⁵ According to the text of the commitment, the UNEP is an example rather than a definitive part of compliance, as evident by the term “for example” in the text of the commitment. Working with the UNEP is an encouraged but not necessary part of full compliance.

In order to fulfill the second part of the commitment, the G7 member must advance research and innovation about the consequences of marine litter in collaboration with other institutions. This means that unilateral or independent research within a G7 member about the impacts of marine litter does not count towards compliance.

Thus, to achieve full compliance, the G7 member must have worked with other actors to reinforce or initiate the harmonization of monitoring procedures regarding marine waste, while also collaborating with other institutions to develop further research on the implications of marine litter. Successful implementation of both parts to this commitment will result in a score of +1 for full compliance. This commitment emphasizes the exchange and growth of information and innovation, rather than referring to unilateral government action to combat marine litter.

Partial compliance is scored when the G7 member has either fulfilled the former or latter half of the commitment. This means that the G7 member has either successfully implemented its actions to promote the harmonization of monitoring technologies or foster collaborative research. G7 members will receive a score of -1 for non-compliance if they have not successfully promoted the harmonization of monitoring methodologies, nor collaboration on research and cooperation.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---|
| -1 | The G7 member does NOT promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter NOR promotes collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work. |
| 0 | The G7 member promotes the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter OR promotes collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work. |
| +1 | The G7 member promotes the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter AND promotes collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work. |

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²³¹⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 27 August 2018.

²³¹⁵ About UN Environment, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 27 August 2018. <https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate this work.

On 10 June 2018, Canada announced that it will invest CAD100 million through a marine litter mitigation fund that aims to prevent plastic waste from entering the oceans, address plastic waste on shorelines, and better manage existing plastic resources. Canada committed to further investing CAD162 million towards building stronger and more resilient coasts and communities.²³¹⁶

On 16 June 2018, Canada attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.²³¹⁷ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States.²³¹⁸

On 27 June 2018, the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau announced that Canada will invest CAD228.79 million in the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF is a partnership for international cooperation that involves 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector, working to address global environmental issues such as the protection of large marine ecosystems.²³¹⁹

From 19 to 21 September 2018, under its G7 presidency, Canada co-hosted a two-day G7 joint ministerial session in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities. Canada committed to investing up to CAD11.6 million in combatting illegal and unregulated fishing, diverting at least 75 percent of plastic waste from government operations by 2030, and reducing ghost gear, which is found in all three of Canada's coastlines.^{2320,2321}

On 1 October 2018, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement's (CUSMA) environmental chapter invoked trilateral action to address marine pollution and illegal fishing. The agreement also

²³¹⁶ Working together on climate change, oceans, and clean energy, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 10 June 2018. Access Date: 11 September 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/06/10/working-together-climate-change-oceans-and-clean-energy>.

²³¹⁷ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

²³¹⁸ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

²³¹⁹ Canada announces support to Global Environment Facility to advance climate action in developing countries, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2018. Access Date: 11 September 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/06/canada-announces-support-to-global-environment-facility-to-advance-climate-action-in-developing-countries.html>.

²³²⁰ Canada joins the fight against ghost gear, World Animal Protection (Halifax) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.worldanimalprotection.ca/news/canada-joins-fight-against->

²³²¹ Canada's Environment, Oceans and Energy Ministers announce concrete action to advance economic progress through healthy, sustainable oceans at G7 Ministerial Meeting, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2018/09/canadas-environment-oceans-and-energy-ministers-announce-concrete-action-to-advance-economic-progress-through-healthy-sustainable-oceans-at-g7-mini.html>.

introduced new articles to reduce marine litter and a binding agreement on banning shark finning — a first for Canada.²³²²

From 1 to 31 October 2018, the government concluded its month-long participation in the first-ever global action aimed at combating maritime pollution crime, entitled Operation 30 Days at Sea. Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada provided aerial surveillance technologies that permitted authorities to detect maritime offences.²³²³

On 3 October 2018, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson announced that Canada signed an international agreement along with Japan, the United States, and the European Union, to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas of the central Arctic Ocean. The agreement will provide frameworks to establish conservation and measures to manage and better monitor Arctic Ocean ecosystems, in an effort to make future commercial fishing activities more sustainable.²³²⁴ The parties involved will also commence a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring to oversee the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean.²³²⁵

On 13 October 2018, Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories Michael McLeod announced an investment of CAD19.5 million under the Oceans Protection Plan. This fund will construct four double-hulled barges to minimize the risk of a fuel spill and seek to improve the safety of community supply operations to protect Canada's coasts and waterways.²³²⁶

On 14 November 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, issued a joint statement on marine litter and plastics. The statement recognized the importance of adopting a lifecycle approach to managing and reducing plastics and protecting oceans. Both countries forged a partnership to combat marine litter by facilitating the sharing of best practices and technologies to prevent plastic pollution in Canadian and Chinese coastal cities.²³²⁷

On 15 November 2018, the government announced renewed infrastructure investments to the Canadian Coast Guard operations in Saint John. These investments include a 15-year lease for a new Integrated Services Centre and a helicopter hanger, aimed at supporting more efficient marine

²³²² USMCA — Environment Chapter Summary (Ottawa) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018.

<http://international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/usmca-aeumc/enviro.aspx?lang=eng>.

²³²³ First global multi-agency operation highlights widespread marine pollution crime (Lyon) 13 November 2018. Access Date: 22 November 2018. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/first-global-multi-agency-operation-highlights-widespread-marine>.

²³²⁴ International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean (Ottawa) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/international/arctic-arctique-eng.htm>.

²³²⁵ EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas — Frequently Asked Questions, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas-%E2%80%93-frequently_en

²³²⁶ Government of Canada delivers marine safety training and barges to Northern communities through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Hay River) 13 October 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2018/10/government-of-canada-delivers-marine-safety-training-and-barges-to-northern-communities-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

²³²⁷ Joint Statement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Marine Litter and Plastics, Prime Minister of Canada (Singapore) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/14/joint-statement-between-government-canada-and-government-peoples-republic-china>.

navigation monitoring and providing storage space for environmental response equipment in the case of marine pollution.²³²⁸

From 26-28 November 2018, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson co-hosted the first-ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference with Kenya and Japan. At the conference, Canada announced funding for the World Economic Forum's Friends of Ocean Action and the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean. The funding will be allocated to the sustainable use and conservation of ocean and marine resources, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²³²⁹

On 28 November 2018, the government provided CAD2.5 million to four British Columbia coastal communities to increase the availability of maritime data as a part of Canada's Oceans Protection Plan initiative. The new maritime awareness system will improve access and expand maritime data to indigenous peoples and coastal communities.²³³⁰

On 7 December 2018, Transport Canada announced that it will assist the Government of Nunavut by contributing to two marine safety infrastructure projects with the goal of making Arctic resupply operations safer and more efficient for remote communities. These investments are a part of the CAD94.3 million Safety Equipment and Basic Marine Infrastructure in Northern Communities Initiative under the Oceans Protection Plan and strives to deliver a safer marine system to respond to and prevent pollution incidents.²³³¹

Canada has engaged in ambitious actions to support marine litter regulation through the GEF, CUSMA and the G7 environment ministerial meeting in Halifax. Canada has promoted the harmonization of monitoring methodologies by participating in relevant international discussions and enacting domestic initiatives. It has also sought to advance research and innovation about the consequences of marine litter in collaboration with other institutions and in multilateral forums. Therefore, by addressing marine litter, Canada's aforementioned actions align with its stated priorities at the Charlevoix summit and fully comply with this commitment.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analysts: David Manocchio and Jessy Singh

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

²³²⁸ Government of Canada announces renewed infrastructure for the Canadian Coast Guard in Saint John, Government of Canada (Saint John) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 22 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2018/11/government-of-canada-announces-renewed-infrastructure-for-the-canadian-coast-guard-in-saint-john.html>.

²³²⁹ Statement by the Prime Minister on the Sustainable Blue Economy, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 28 November 2018. Access Date: 1 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/28/statement-prime-minister-sustainable-blue-economy-conference>.

²³³⁰ Government of Canada provides over \$2.5 million to four British Columbia coastal communities to increase availability of maritime data, Government of Canada (Victoria) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2018/11/government-of-canada-provides-over-25-million-to-four-british-columbia-coastal-communities-to-increase-availability-of-maritime-data.html>.

²³³¹ Government of Canada delivers marine safety infrastructure to Nunavut through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-delivers-marine-safety-infrastructure-to-nunavut-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

On 16 June 2018, France attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.²³³² A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as Italy, Japan, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.²³³³ The French Institute for Exploration of the Sea edited and oversaw the publication of a conference report on the impact of marine litter and the conference discussions about the development of harmonized monitoring protocols.²³³⁴ The French Institute for Exploration of the Sea is a national government advisory agency as classified by the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.²³³⁵

On 4 July 2018, Minister of State for Ecological and Solidarity Transition Nicolas Hulot presented the Biodiversity Plan. This plan aims to develop an ambitious European and international roadmap for biodiversity through actions such as supporting the European-level ban on 12 single-use plastic products frequently found on coasts and at sea.²³³⁶

On 1 August 2018, Secretary of State to the Minister of State for the Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition Brune Poirson announced the launch of “Mission Océans.” This project aims to identify the substances of utmost concern to marine ecosystems and coral reefs and propose appropriate regulatory measures to protect oceans from waste and pollution.²³³⁷

On 19 October 2018, the Office of the General Commissioner of Sustainable Development hosted a meeting on “Microplastics: from invisible pollution to a global challenge,” featuring Pascale Fabre, a researcher at the Charles Coulomb laboratory at the University of Montpellier.²³³⁸ Fabre discussed research and consumer-based and institutional actions for the future.

On 6 December 2018, the UNEP and the World Resources Institute, with the support of France, released a report on single-use plastics regarding regulation of manufacturing, distribution, usage, and disposal in G7 members and other countries.²³³⁹ The report notes that regulations regarding plastic

²³³² Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

²³³³ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

²³³⁴ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

²³³⁵ National Government Agencies Links, Oceans and Law of the Sea, United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations (Brussels) Access Date: 16 September 2018. <http://www.un.org/depts/los/Links/Gov-Agency.htm>.

²³³⁶ Nicolas Hulot presents the Biodiversity Plan on the occasion of the first interdepartmental committee for biodiversity, Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 11 September 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/nicolas-hulot-presente-plan-biodiversite-loccasion-du-premier-comite-interministeriel-biodiversite>.

²³³⁷ Ocean and coral reef pollution: Brune Poirson tackles chemicals and plastics, Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 11 September 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/pollution-des-oceans-et-des-recifs-coralliens-brune-poirson-sattaque-aux-substances-chimiques-et-aux>.

²³³⁸ Les rencontres de la recherche. Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 17 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/rencontres-recherche>.

²³³⁹ Legal Limits on Single-Use and Microplastics: A Global Review of National Laws and Regulations. United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27113/plastics_limits.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

bags have been enacted by 66 percent of countries globally, while regulatory bans on microbeads have only been enacted by 4 percent of countries worldwide.²³⁴⁰

France has engaged in international cooperation to align its policies and actions with regards to marine litter, both through regional-level regulations and reporting on participation in conference discussions regarding harmonizing solutions. While France has attempted to better regulate the consequences of marine litter, it has failed to advance cooperative research and innovation on the impact of marine litter in collaboration with other institutions.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analysts: David Manocchio and Kelley Prendergast

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate this work.

On 16 June 2018, Germany attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.²³⁴¹ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States.²³⁴²

On 5 September 2018, the government adopted a motion to promote the domestic development of cutting-edge technologies through a spending program that dedicates EUR 15 billion in public investment to specific priority areas of research identified by Berlin.^{2343,2344} Research Minister Anja Karliczek highlighted the reduction of marine pollution as a focus of Germany's technological development.²³⁴⁵

On 18 September 2018, at the G7 Environmental Ministerial Meeting in Halifax, Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze expressed her encouragement for the discovery of sustainable plastic life cycles and support for developing countries in their endeavors to do the same.²³⁴⁶ The Minister stated her intention to launch joint measures that prevent and eradicate marine litter.²³⁴⁷ She

²³⁴⁰ Legal Limits on Single-Use and Microplastics: A Global Review of National Laws and Regulations. United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27113/plastics_limits.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

²³⁴¹ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018.

http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

²³⁴² Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

²³⁴³ Germany to promote innovation with national research funding, Xinhua (Beijing) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/05/c_137447318.htm.

²³⁴⁴ Germany to promote innovation with national research funding, Xinhua (Beijing) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/05/c_137447318.htm.

²³⁴⁵ Germany to promote innovation with national research funding, Xinhua (Beijing) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/05/c_137447318.htm.

²³⁴⁶ G7 environment ministers discuss measures to combat climate change, marine litter and resource inefficiency (Berlin) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g7-umweltministerinnen-und-minister-diskutieren-massnahmen-gegen-klimawandel-meeresmuell-und-ressour/>.

²³⁴⁷ G7 environment ministers discuss measures to combat climate change, marine litter and resource inefficiency (Berlin) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g7-umweltministerinnen-und-minister-diskutieren-massnahmen-gegen-klimawandel-meeresmuell-und-ressour/>.

agreed that a circular economy is necessary to help reduce marine litter, and the life cycle of plastics must be addressed.²³⁴⁸

On 29 October 2018, at the “Our Ocean Conference” in Indonesia, Germany committed USD8 million to 23 commitments that focus on supporting the conservation of marine biodiversity in Indonesia and the promotion of a blue economy, ocean monitoring and plastic pollution. Germany also committed USD6 million to increase its contribution to the Blue Action Fund, a fund that enhances marine protection.²³⁴⁹

On 26 November 2018, Environment Minister Svenja Schulze announced a five-point plan to reduce the amount of plastic waste in oceans.²³⁵⁰ This plan includes initiatives to increase the number of recycling stations in Germany and create products using more sustainable materials.²³⁵¹

While Germany has engaged in efforts to address the issue of marine litter through research and innovation, it has yet to promote harmonization of its monitoring methodologies for marine litter with other members of the G7 or other governments.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Meagan Byrd and Alexa Kalsatos

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

On 16 June 2018, Italy attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.²³⁵² Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.²³⁵³

On 3 August 2018, Minister of the Environment Sergio Costa announced the creation of federal law to protect oceans from plastic pollution.²³⁵⁴ This policy and a public campaign were announced to adopt a legislative approach to ridding the public of unsustainable plastic use.²³⁵⁵

²³⁴⁸ Chair’s Summary: G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting (Halifax) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/g7-environment-ministers-meeting-chairs-summary/>.

²³⁴⁹ Our Ocean Commitments, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Bali) 30 October 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://ourocean2018.org/?l=our-ocean-commitments>.

²³⁵⁰ How Germany’s environment minister plans to turn Around plastic use, The Local (Berlin) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://www.thelocal.de/20181126/german-environment-minister-pushes-for-a-turnaround-in-plastic-use>.

²³⁵¹ How Germany’s environment minister plans to turn Around plastic use, The Local (Berlin) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://www.thelocal.de/20181126/german-environment-minister-pushes-for-a-turnaround-in-plastic-use>.

²³⁵² Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

²³⁵³ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

²³⁵⁴ The Campaign Against Plastic on the Beaches Starts Sunday, Italian Ministry for the Environment Land Sea (Rome) 3 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mare-parte-domenica-la-campagna-contro-la-plastica-sulle-spiagge>.

On 18 September 2018, Italy attended the G7 Ministerial Meeting in Halifax, Canada.²³⁵⁶ The meeting noted that a circular economy is essential to addressing marine litter. G7 Environment Ministers emphasized the need to change the life cycle of plastics in order to reduce plastic waste.²³⁵⁷ During this meeting, G7 ministers also created an innovation challenge aimed at spurring technological development, raising awareness, and exploring policy improvements in the management of plastics.²³⁵⁸

On 26 September 2018, Under-Secretary for the Environment Salvatore Micillo announced a recycling program that allows fishermen to bring ordinary plastics and marine litter caught at sea to be processed and reused as other materials. Micillo stressed the need to consider consumption as a circular economic model and find ways to use materials at all stages.²³⁵⁹

On 24 October 2018, the Ministry of Environment participated in the National Association of Italian Municipalities' meeting. This meeting focused on the "Plastic Free" campaign, which strives to eliminate the use of disposable plastic.²³⁶⁰ Undersecretary of the Environment Salvatore Micillo emphasized the importance of providing sustainable materials and eliminating the use of plastic and encouraged municipalities to join this initiative and ban disposable plastics.²³⁶¹

On 30 October 2018, at the Our Ocean Conference in Bali, the Italian Development Cooperation — a government agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — committed EUR1.3 million towards 23 commitments that focus on supporting the conservation of marine biodiversity in Indonesia and the promotion of a blue economy, ocean monitoring and plastic pollution.

While it has shown evidence of promoting the harmonization of monitoring methodologies with other G7 members and enacting domestic legislation on the issue of marine litter, Italy has yet to conduct collaborative research on the impacts of marine litter through partnerships with institutions such as, but not limited to, the UNEP.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Meagan Byrd and Alexa Kalsatos

²³⁵⁵ The Campaign Against Plastic on the Beaches Starts Sunday, Italian Ministry for the Environment Land Sea (Rome) 3 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mare-parte-domenica-la-campagna-contro-la-plastica-sulle-spiagge>.

²³⁵⁶ G7 Ministerial Meeting: Working Together on Oceans, Climate Change and Clean Energy (Halifax) 22 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/>.

²³⁵⁷ Chair's Summary: G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting (Halifax) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/g7-environment-ministers-meeting-chairs-summary/>.

²³⁵⁸ Chairs' Summary: G7 Joint Ministerial Session on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities (Halifax) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/themes/working-together-climate-change-oceans-clean-energy/g7-ministerial-meeting/joint-chairs-summary/>.

²³⁵⁹ Undersecretary Micillo in Corepla: Italy Leader in Recycling, On Plastic We Have to Do More. Soon a Law to Clean the Seas (Rome) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 11 October 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/il-sottosegretario-micillo-corepla-italia-leader-nel-riciclo-su-plastica-dobbiamo-fare-di>.

²³⁶⁰ Ministry of Environment at the ANCI Assembly, Focus on 'Plastic Free' and Public Green, Italian Ministry for the Environment Land Sea (Rome) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 29 November 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ministero-ambiente-ad-assemblea-anci-focus-su-plastic-free-e-verde-pubblico>.

²³⁶¹ Ministry of Environment at the ANCI Assembly, Focus on 'Plastic Free' and Public Green, Italian Ministry for the Environment Land Sea (Rome) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 29 November 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ministero-ambiente-ad-assemblea-anci-focus-su-plastic-free-e-verde-pubblico>.

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate this work.

On 15 June 2018, the Upper House unanimously passed a bill to reduce microplastics. The new bill urges businesses and corporations to constrain their utilization of microplastics in cosmetic and hygiene products such as face wash and toothpaste. The provision of this law also compels local governments to educate their populations about recycling and the adverse effects of plastics.²³⁶²

On 16 June 2018, Japan attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.²³⁶³ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Italy, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.²³⁶⁴

On 6 August 2018, the Office of Marine Environment in the Water Environment Division, based in the Environmental Management Bureau of the Ministry of the Environment, announced its “Outline for the Project of Harmonization of Microplastics Monitoring Methodologies in the Ocean.”²³⁶⁵ The outline presents a detailed history of the marine litter agenda in Japan and within the G7, and presents an expert meeting series held to draft recommendations for microplastics monitoring.

On 19 September 2018, the Environment Minister attended the G7 joint meeting on Healthy Oceans, Seas, and Resilient Communities. During this meeting, the ministers reiterated their commitment to reducing marine litter and created an innovation challenge aimed at spurring innovation, raising awareness, and facilitating improvements in the management of plastics. The ministers noted the need to prevent plastics from entering the oceans and other water bodies.²³⁶⁶

On 3 October 2018, Japan signed the Central Arctic Ocean agreement, which outlines a joint programme to monitor an area of sea opening in the Arctic under the pressures of climate change. The programme involves nine other signatory countries, including G7 members such as the United States, Canada, and the European Union.²³⁶⁷ The parties involved will also commence a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring to oversee the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean.²³⁶⁸

²³⁶² Bill to reduce microplastics released into the environment passed by Japan’s Upper House, The Japan Times, 15 June 2018. Access Date: 9 September 2018. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/06/15/national/bill-reduce-microplastics-released-environment-passed-japans-upper-house/#.W5h8eJNKiCV>.

²³⁶³ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

²³⁶⁴ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

²³⁶⁵ Outline for the Project of Harmonization of Microplastics Monitoring Methodologies in the Ocean, Office of Marine Environment, Water Environment Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 6 August 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://www.env.go.jp/en/water/marine_litter/outline.pdf.

²³⁶⁶ Press Briefings (Reports), Foreign Press Center Japan (Tokyo) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <http://fpcj.jp/en/worldnews/briefings/>.

²³⁶⁷ Commercial fishing banned across much of the Arctic, The Guardian (London) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/03/commercial-fishing-banned-across-much-of-the-arctic?fbclid=IwAR14e7TrcwXUKTKXWzh6_MvF1h-EI7mQRmMgk9Yq0DwoXtazwUeXNbEJpDE.

²³⁶⁸ EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas — Frequently Asked Questions, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas-%E2%80%93-frequently_en

On 15 November 2018, Japan attended the Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Plus Three (ASEAN+3) in Singapore, where the attendant parties discussed the launch of the ASEAN+3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative. Under this initiative, countries will work together to engage in cooperative research about marine debris, assess its impacts, and work to develop the capacity to monitor plastic marine litter.²³⁶⁹

Japan has acted to align marine litter policies domestically, and it has presented a blueprint to harmonize and standardize monitoring methodologies through transboundary cooperation. It has also promoted collaboration on researching the impacts of marine litter.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Sofia Louise Lopez and Sanjna Ullal

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate this work.

On 16 June 2018, the UK attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.²³⁷⁰ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Germany, Canada, Italy, and the United States.²³⁷¹

On 3 October 2018, at the Scottish Resources Conference that Zero Waste Scotland, Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform announced that it will be increasing available grants to GBP1 million in partnership with Marine Scotland, an amount that will finance innovative projects aimed at tackling marine litter.²³⁷²

On 11 October 2018, the UK attended the Arctic Environment Ministers' Meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland. The purpose of the meeting was to explore common solutions to the issues of climate change, biodiversity, and pollution prevention. The United Kingdom Observer released a statement highlighting the UK's work with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), seeking to develop and implement a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.²³⁷³

On 18 October 2018, the UK attended the OSPAR-Cartagena Convention, where the parties developed recommendations for a uniform litter monitoring and management programme. These

²³⁶⁹ ASEAN, China and Japan agree to pitch in to reduce plastic waste, Asian Review (Singapore) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Environment/ASEAN-China-and-Japan-agree-to-pitch-in-to-reduce-plastic-waste>.

²³⁷⁰ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

²³⁷¹ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

²³⁷² Zero Waste Scotland Doubles Marine Litter Fund to €1 Million, British Plastics and Rubber (Chester) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/Environment/zero-waste-scotland-doubles-marine-litter-fund-to-%C2%A31million/>.

²³⁷³ Arctic Environment Ministers' Meeting: UK Observer's Statement; Commonwealth Office (Helsinki) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 11 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/arctic-environment-ministers-meeting-uk-observers-statement>.

recommendations will be presented to the Contracting Parties at the next Cartagena conference of the parties in Marine 2019.²³⁷⁴

On 19 October 2018, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, co-funded by the Welsh government and the EU, provided a GBP50,000 fund to a research project studying the effects of and potential solutions for marine litter. This project was designed to complement the Clean Seas Partnership Marine Litter Action Plan.²³⁷⁵

The UK has promoted the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter with other states and engaged in collaborative research through multilateral partnerships.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Angela Min Yi Hou and Sanjina Ullal

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

On 16 June 2018, the United States attended the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference.²³⁷⁶ Notably, the conference discussed the development of harmonized monitoring protocols and guidelines. A total of 54 countries were represented at this conference, including other G7 members such as France, Japan, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Italy.²³⁷⁷

On 19 June 2018, the US published Executive Order (EO) 13840, “Ocean Policy to Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States.” The order’s aims are to improve public access to marine data and information and ensure efficient interagency marine coordination with various stakeholders.²³⁷⁸ It establishes the Ocean Policy Committee with the aim of coordinating and informing “the ocean policy-making process and identify[ing] priority ocean research and technology needs.” This, in turn, revokes EO 13547, “Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes,” passed under the Obama administration. As a result, several federal entities and plans — including the National Ocean Council, National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Plan — have been eliminated.²³⁷⁹

²³⁷⁴ Harmonising Marine Litter Monitoring for plastic free oceans, OSPAR Commission. 22 October 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018. <https://www.ospar.org/news/harmonising-marine-litter-monitoring-for-plastic-free-oceans>.

²³⁷⁵ New Marine Litter Project Launched, Welsh Government (Cardiff) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. <https://gov.wales/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2018/181019-new-marine-litter-project-launched/?lang=en>.

²³⁷⁶ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Sixth_International_Marine_Debris_Conference_Proceedings.pdf.

²³⁷⁷ Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, 6IMDC ATTENDEES (San Diego) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 September 2018. <http://internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/index.php/attendees/>.

²³⁷⁸ Ocean Policy To Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States, Federal Register (Washington D. C.) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/06/22/2018-13640/ocean-policy-to-advance-the-economic-security-and-environmental-interests-of-the-united-states>.

²³⁷⁹ Guidance for Implementing Executive Order 13840, Titled “Ocean Policy to Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States”, Executive Office of The President (Washington D. C.) 28 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/DOCUMENT%20-%20EO%20Ocean%20Policy%20Guidance%20Memo.pdf>.

From 9-12 July 2018, the Chief Scientist for the Marine Debris Program, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Great Lakes Mussel Watch, and scholars from Loyola University collectively explored biomonitoring for microplastics in the Great Lakes via observing zebra and quagga mussels.²³⁸⁰ Hosted under the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program is the U.S. Federal government's lead for addressing marine debris.²³⁸¹

On 16 August 2018, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program announced the 23 recipients of the 2018 prevention and removal grant awards. The awards total approximately USD2.5 million in federal funds, and it aims to support efforts that target national and global marine litter problems impacting wildlife, navigation safety, human health, and the economy.²³⁸²

On 5 September 2018, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program released the "Washington Marine Debris Action Plan."²³⁸³ The action plan outlines four major goals in addressing the issue of marine litter: prevention, removal, research, and coordination. Specifically, the action plans to "conduct coordinated, high-quality research to inform actions that reduce the adverse impacts of marine debris."²³⁸⁴

On 26 September 2018, Congress passed the Save Our Seas Act. The bill reauthorizes and amends the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris. This includes "providing technical assistance to expand waste management systems internationally." The bill also authorizes USD10 million to the administrator until 2022.²³⁸⁵

On 3 October 2018, the US signed an international agreement along with Japan, Canada, and the European Union to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas of the central Arctic Ocean. The agreement will establish conservation measures to manage and better monitor Arctic Ocean ecosystems, in an effort to make future commercial fishing activities more sustainable.²³⁸⁶ The parties involved will also commence a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring, overseeing the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean.²³⁸⁷

²³⁸⁰ Marine Debris Program Joins Microplastics Monitoring Fieldwork in the Great Lakes, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (Silver Spring) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018.

<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/marine-debris-program-joins-microplastics-monitoring-fieldwork-great-lakes>.

²³⁸¹ About Us, OR&R's Marine Debris Program, NOAA Marine Debris Program (Silver Spring) Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/about-us>.

²³⁸² The NOAA Marine Debris Program Awards Funding to 23 New Projects, Marine Debris Program Office of Response and Restoration 16 August 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/noaa-marine-debris-program-awards-funding-23-new-projects>.

²³⁸³ The Washington Marine Debris Action Plan, Marine Debris Program Office of Response and Restoration (Silver Spring) September 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/regional-action-plan/washington-marine-debris-action-plan>.

²³⁸⁴ The Washington Marine Debris Action Plan, Marine Debris Program Office of Response and Restoration (Silver Spring) September 2018. Access Date: 17 September 2018. <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/regional-action-plan/washington-marine-debris-action-plan>.

²³⁸⁵ S.3508 — Save Our Seas Act of 2018, Congress (Washington D. C.) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3508/text/cps?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.+3508%22%5D%7D&r=1>.

²³⁸⁶ International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean (Ottawa) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/international/arctic-arctique-eng.htm>.

²³⁸⁷ EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas — Frequently Asked Questions, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas-%E2%80%93-frequently_en

On 30 October 2018, at the Our Ocean Conference in Indonesia, the United States announced 15 commitments to reinforce “sustainable management of marine resources,” prevent marine debris, support “research and observation of ocean ecosystems,” and create “partnerships promoting marine security and a sustainable blue economy.”²³⁸⁸

On 30 November 2018, the United States signed the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), in which the United States recognized the global nature of marine litter.²³⁸⁹ Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of State negotiated a new Agreement on Environmental Cooperation with Canada and Mexico.²³⁹⁰ The new agreement will support the CUSMA’s environmental policies and improve collective efforts to reduce marine litter and address other urgent environmental issues.²³⁹¹

The United States has promoted the harmonization of its monitoring methodologies with its G7 counterparts and other states on a policy level. While the US has explored collaborative research regarding marine litter between various government agencies and academic institutions, such collaboration did not occur on an international level or through partnerships with institutions such as the UNEP.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

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European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote the harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter and collaboration on research on its impacts, in cooperation, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate this work.

On 20 June 2018, along with UNEP, the European Commission adopted the “2018 Oceans roadmap 2.0,” which addresses ocean pollution and litter. The two parties reaffirmed their commitment to protecting oceans by “addressing land-based sources to combat marine pollution, working through existing governance structures to share best practices and lessons learned and supporting healthy marine and coastal ecosystems, which can help strengthen capacity for sustainable fisheries.” A ten-step roadmap was produced to encourage other governments to follow suit, and the roadmap discussed the mixed impacts of and measures to curb single-use plastics.²³⁹²

²³⁸⁸ U.S. Commitments Announced at Our Ocean 2018, U.S. Department of State (Washington D. C.) 30 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.state.gov/e/oes/rls/other/2018/286990.htm>.

²³⁸⁹ Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada Text, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D. C.) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/united-states-mexico-canada-agreement/agreement-between#>.

²³⁹⁰ The United States, Mexico, and Canada Conclude Negotiations on a Trilateral Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D. C.) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/united-states-mexico-and-canada-conclude-negotiations-trilateral-agreement>.

²³⁹¹ The United States, Mexico, and Canada Conclude Negotiations on a Trilateral Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D. C.) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/united-states-mexico-and-canada-conclude-negotiations-trilateral-agreement>.

²³⁹² Roadmap to healthier, cleaner oceans adopted by UN Environment and European Commission, UN Environment (Brussels) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/roadmap-healthier-cleaner-oceans-adopted-un-environment-and-european>.

On 9 July, the EU Think Tank published a report titled “Marine Litter: Single-Use Plastics and Fishing Gear.” The study examines the viability of the European Commission’s impact assessment of a Plastics Strategy directive to reduce marine litter by targeting ten of the most common single-use plastic products found on European beaches and oceans. The study found that while policies adhere to scientific research, the European Commission did not address how businesses will invest in alternative materials and innovation.²³⁹³

On 10 July 2018, the European Parliament’s environment committee voted to strengthen the European Commission’s Plastics Strategy. This entails increased efforts to cut plastic pollution by banning microplastics in cosmetics and hygiene products and oxo-degradable plastics by 2020. This new Plastics Strategy also discourages the use of biodegradable and compostable plastics. Furthermore, the EU proposed to invest the revenue accumulated from taxing plastic production in preventing plastic waste.²³⁹⁴

On 16 July 2018, the EU and China signed a Partnership Agreement on Oceans to improve and harmonize international governance of oceans. This agreement combats illegal fishing and identifies novel business and research opportunities based on clean technologies. The partnership outlines precise strategies to protect oceans from plastic litter using approaches in accordance with the Paris Agreement and by implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²³⁹⁵

On 19 July 2018, the EU threatened legal action against Sweden for failing to comply with EU environmental laws. In a formal notice, the EU prompted Sweden to fully enact the Environmental Liability Directive into its national legislation. The directive necessitated that polluters pay compensation for environmental damage, a law that aims to deter pollution and prevent damage to water bodies, soil, and animals.²³⁹⁶

On 31 July 2018, the European Commission published a report entitled “assessing Member States’ programmes of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.” This report outlines the progress of the EU member states’ marine strategies over the past six years, with the goal of achieving “good environmental status.” The report concludes that while the Member States have made considerable progress with their programmes, achieving “good environmental status” by 2020 remains unlikely.²³⁹⁷

On 13 September 2018, the members of the European Parliament voted in favour of a resolution on the European Commission’s Plastics Strategy entitled “A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy.”²³⁹⁸ The strategy aims for all plastics to be reusable or recyclable by 2030.²³⁹⁹

²³⁹³ Marine litter: single-use plastics and fishing gear, European Parliament (Brussels) July 2018. Access Date: 16 September 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/621843/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)621843_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/621843/EPRS_BRI(2018)621843_EN.pdf)

²³⁹⁴ EU Parliaments backs microplastic bans to tackle plastic pollution, EEB (Brussels) 10 July 2018. Access Date: 10 September 2018. <http://eeb.org/eu-parliament-backs-microplastic-bans-to-tackle-plastic-pollution/>.

²³⁹⁵ European Commission — Press release EU-China Summit: deepening the strategic global partnership, European Commission (Beijing) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 9 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4521_en.htm.

²³⁹⁶ European Commission — Fact Sheet July infringements package: key decisions, European Commission (Brussels) 19 July 2018. Access Date: 9 September 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-18-4486_en.htm.

²³⁹⁷ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Assessing Member States’ programmes of measure under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A562%3AFIN&qid=1533034580736>

²³⁹⁸ Texts Adopted: A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, European Commission (Strasbourg) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2018-0352+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

On 13 September 2018, the European Parliament voted in favour of a resolution to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation. This resolution beckons the European Commission to adopt a plan “to prevent hazardous chemicals from entering the material cycle.”²⁴⁰⁰

On 25 September 2018, the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme co-hosted an event to launch the Global Plastics Platform. The Global Plastics Platform is a network aimed at supporting countries with plastics strategies and promoting their transitions to a circular economy.²⁴⁰¹ At the event, the First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans invited other countries to follow the EU Plastics Strategy and proposed that government and industry should work together.²⁴⁰²

On 3 October 2018, the EU signed a legally binding international agreement to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas of the Central Arctic Ocean. The parties involved, including Japan, the United States, and Canada will also commence a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring to oversee the ecosystems of the Central Arctic Ocean.²⁴⁰³

On 11 October 2018, the European Commission launched a new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe. This new strategy focuses on the circular nature of the bioeconomy, such as its capacity to recycle plastic and convert waste into new goods.²⁴⁰⁴ The European Commission insists that the bioeconomy will support shifts towards healthier ecosystems such as plastic-free seas and oceans. This new strategy highlights the importance of innovation, and the European Commission plans to increase funding for bioeconomy research.²⁴⁰⁵

The EU has acted to enhance collaborative expertise-sharing and development with partners in international institutions, within the EU consortium and with bilateral partners outside the region such as China. It has harmonized monitoring methodologies for marine litter and demonstrated collaborative research on the impacts of marine litter.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Sofia Louise Lopez and Nora Moidu

²³⁹⁹ EU strategy to cut plastic waste: more recycling, ban on micro-plastics, European Parliament (Brussels) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20180830STO11347/eu-strategy-to-cut-plastic-waste-more-recycling-ban-on-micro-plastics>

²⁴⁰⁰ Texts adopted: Options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B8-2018-0363&language=EN>

²⁴⁰¹ Nations commit to fight plastic pollution together during the UN General Assembly, United Nations Environment Programme (New York) 25 September 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/nations-commit-fight-plastic-pollution-together-during-un-general>

²⁴⁰² European Commission — Daily News Daily News 26/09/2018 (Brussels) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-5913_en.htm

²⁴⁰³ EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas — Frequently Asked Questions, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/eu-and-arctic-partners-enter-historic-agreement-prevent-unregulated-fishing-high-seas-%E2%80%93-frequently_en

²⁴⁰⁴ European Commission — Press release A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6067_en.htm

²⁴⁰⁵ A sustainable bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment, European Commission (Luxembourg) October 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/pdf/ec_bioeconomy_strategy_2018.pdf — view=fit&pagemode=none