

GES: Common principles, tailored indicators & targets

Illustration: Descriptor 10 on Marine Litter

GES Descriptors
high level, generic across Europe

Descriptor 10 – Marine litter does not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment

GES Criteria
will be based on characteristics which define what GES means in each Member State

1. Characteristics of litter in the marine and coastal environment
2. Impacts of litter on marine life

GES: Indicators & Targets
provide the final level of details.
If the targets are met, GES should be achieved

Indicators:

- Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines
- Trends in the amount of litter in the water column (including floating at the surface) and deposited on the sea-floor
- Trends in the amount, distribution and where possible, composition of micro-particles (in particular micro-plastics)
- Trends in the amount and composition of litter ingested by marine animals

Targets (examples):

- X% of overall reduction in the volume of litter on coastlines from 2010 levels by 2020.
- Less than X% of northern fulmars (sea bird) having more than 0.1 g plastic particles in their stomach
- No increase of micro-plastics by 2020