

# Prosfero

Beach and underwater cleanups  
September 2024 - June 2025





# PROSFERO

Prosfero campaign is funded by Procter & Gamble and AB Vasilopoulos and implemented by iSea with the aim to restore coastal areas and remove aquatic litter. Since 2018, 309 beach and underwater cleanups have been conducted throughout Greece in the context of the project, and more than 95 tons of litter have been removed.

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iSea

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iSea

The present interim report refers to the activities conducted in the context of the Prosfero from September 2024 to June 2025.

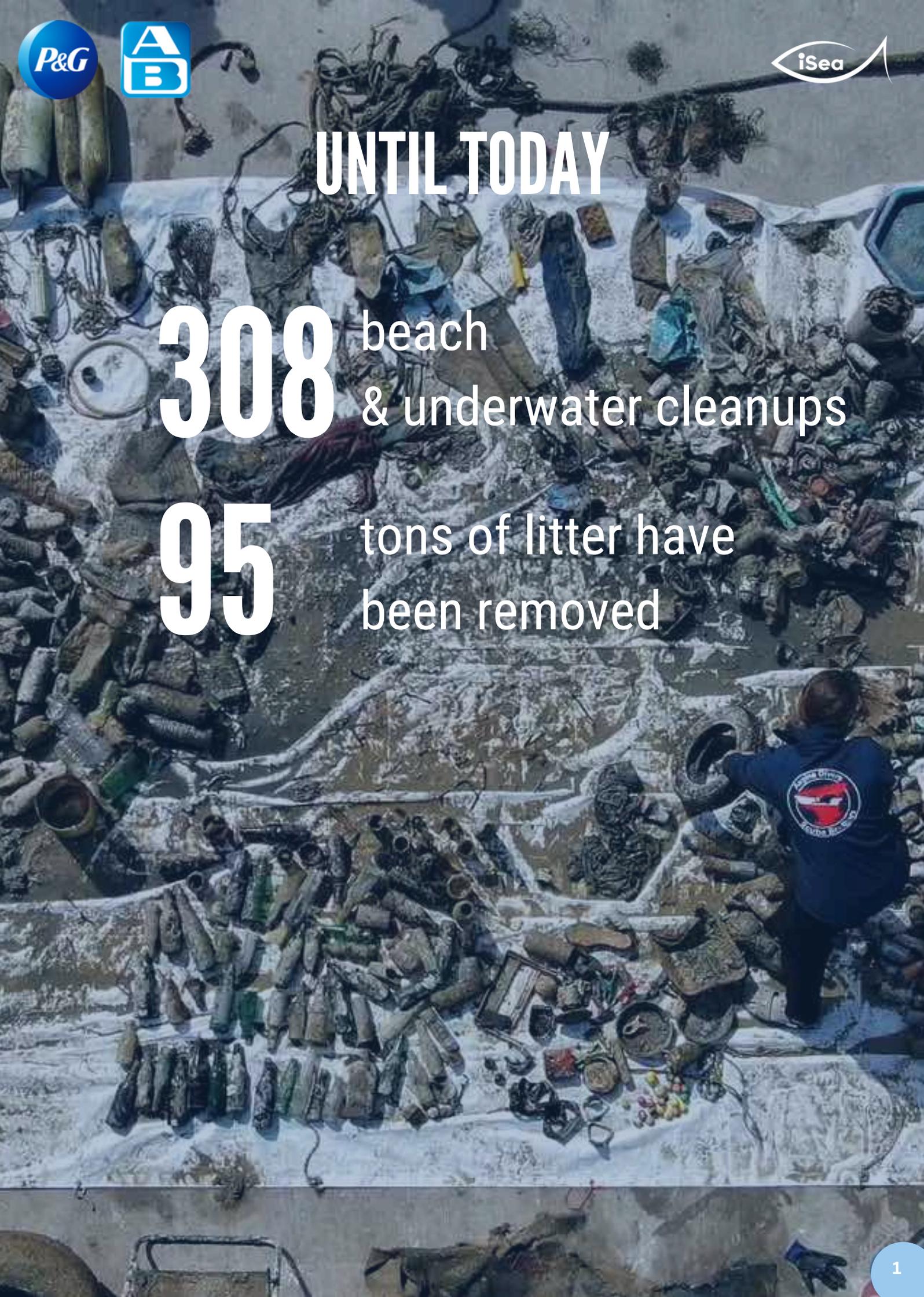
We want to express our gratitude to all those who voluntarily contributed to the success of our regional activities and to all the authorities for their collaboration



# UNTIL TODAY

**308** beach & underwater cleanups

**95** tons of litter have been removed





# BEACH CLEANUPS

1<sup>st</sup> Activity (A1): Delta of Evrota

2<sup>nd</sup> Activity (A2): Kithira - Agia Pelagia beach

3<sup>rd</sup> Activity (A3): Crete - Nea Chora beach

4<sup>th</sup> Activity (A4): Sitia beach

5<sup>th</sup> Activity (A5): Schinousa - Livadi beach

6<sup>th</sup> Activity (A6): Schinousa - Tsigouri beach

7<sup>th</sup> Activity (A7): Donousa - Stavrou beach

8<sup>th</sup> Activity (A8): Nikiti beach

9<sup>h</sup> Activity (A9): Wetland of Agios Mamas beach

10<sup>th</sup> Activity (A10): Aegina - Vagia beach

11<sup>th</sup> Activity (A11): Aggistri - Skala beach

12<sup>th</sup> Activity (A12): Aggistri - Megalochori beach

13<sup>th</sup> Activity (A13): Nea Kallikratia beach

14<sup>th</sup> Activity (A14): Nea Fokea beach

15<sup>th</sup> Activity (A15): Paliosaraga beach

16<sup>th</sup> Activity (A16): Ammoudia beach

**00 Activity (A00): Plataria beach (the cleanup was cancelled due to bad weather - It will be added in the Prosero wave 2025-2026 in a new area)**

17<sup>th</sup> Activity (A17): Delta Kalama

18<sup>th</sup> Activity (A18): Delta Pinios

19<sup>th</sup> Activity (A19): Schinias beach

20<sup>th</sup> Activity (A20): Samothraki - Kamariotissa beach (not implemented yet)



# BEACH CLEANUPS

Table 1: Supplementary data of "Prosfero" beach cleanups conducted the period September 2024 - June 2025

ACTIVITY	DATE	VOLUNTEERS	LITTER COLLECTED (KG)
A1	8/10/2024	2	29
A2	9/10/2024	40	5
A3	11/10/2024	2	6
A4	14/10/2024	66	9
A5	5/11/2024	13	10
A6	6/11/2024	28	15
A7	7/11/2024	13	16,2
A8	11/2/2025	130	40
A9	13/2/2025	13	125
A10	11/3/2025	40	24
A11	14/3/2025	35	23,1
A12	15/3/2025	4	29,75
A13	20/3/2025	280	108
A14	26/3/2025	150	83,4
A15	11/4/2025	54	104,4
A16	7/4/2025	77	50,3
A00	11/4/2025	0	0
A17	12/4/2025	7	27.8
A18	6/5/2025	40	56.5
A19	24/5/2025	53	98.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>1047</b>	<b>861.05</b>



# BEACH LITTER MONITORING RESULTS

In the context of the actions and to survey the abundance of marine litter in each area, beach litter was monitored according to the monitoring framework and list of items of the protocol established in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

In total, 861.05 kg of litter was removed from 19 beaches all over Greece. A total of 3,426 litter items were recorded, 93% of which were plastics. Consistent with global literature and data, plastic was the most abundant type of litter across all actions conducted.

# LITTER TYPES

The percentage of plastic found on all beaches is 93.02%.

Plastic was the most abundant type of litter in all the cleanup actions. The most abundant plastic litter was “Pieces of plastic 2.5cm > and < 50cm”, with a percentage of 35.6%

Figure 1: Litter type, excluding plastic items, expressed as a percentage (%).

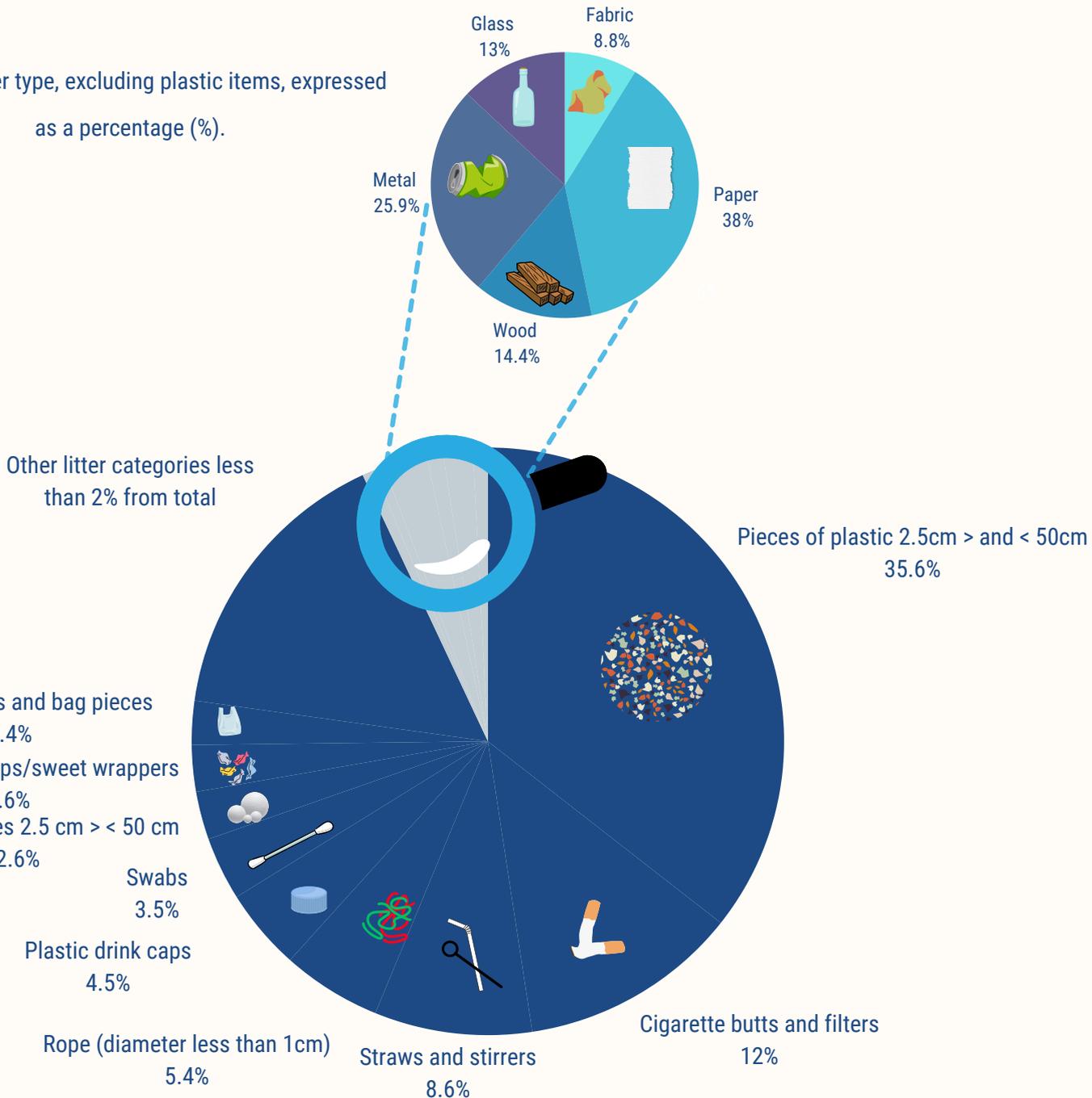


Figure 2: Litter type expressed as a percentage (%).

In all of the beach cleanups, the **average value** of plastic items was

88.3%.

### Number of items recorded per activity

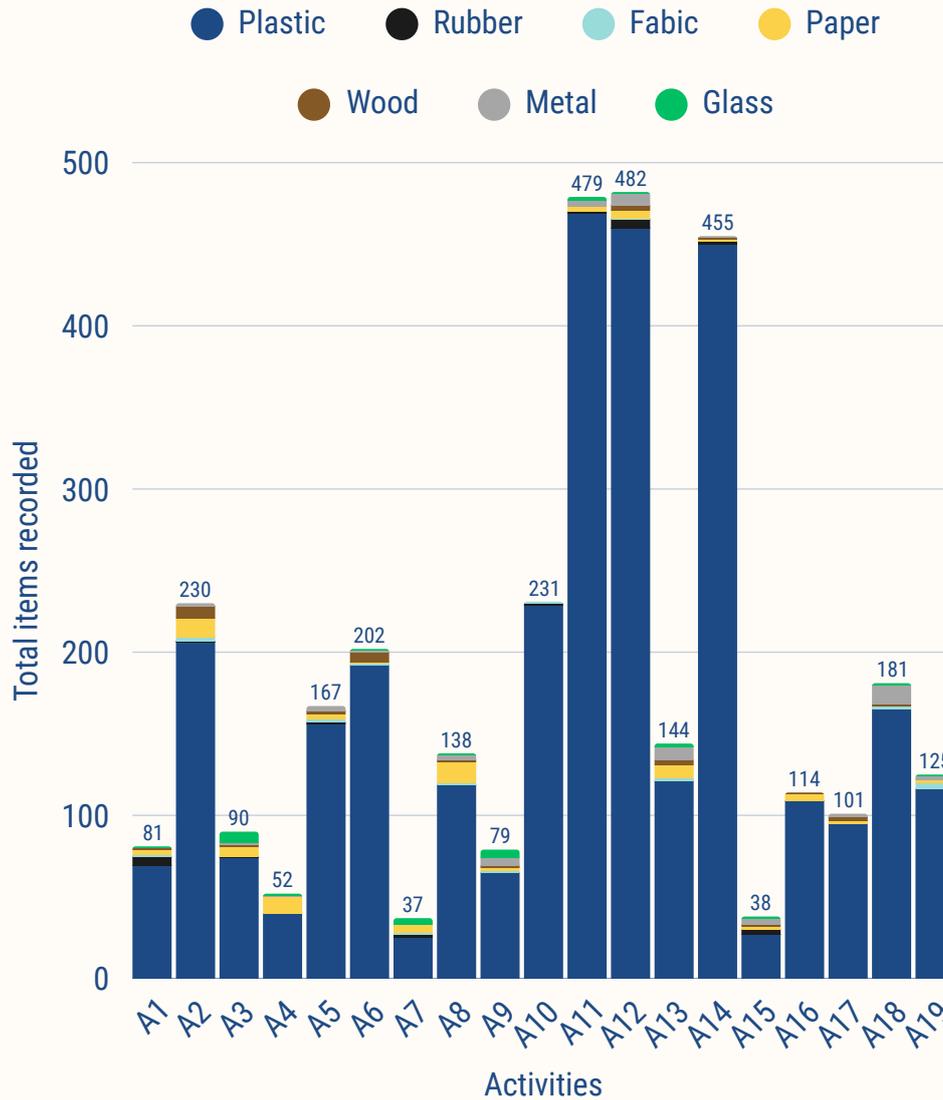


Figure 3: Recorded types of litter, per activity, expressed as percentage (%).

In all the cleanup activities, the mean value of plastic items recorded exceeded 88%. More specifically, areas such as A11, A12 and A14 are the first three areas with the most recorded litter. For these areas, most of the litter recorded was “Pieces of plastic >2.5cm and <5cm”, which is justified by the location of these three areas. The first two areas are located in Saronikos Gulf, which is considered one of the most polluted areas in Mediterranean (Spedicato et al., 2019), and A14 is a beach located in the inner part of a fishing port in Chalkidiki, where a stream also ends at the beach, bringing even more litter to the area when there are rainfalls. Additionally, these areas are located in some of the most touristic places in Greece. The three areas with the fewest recorded items were A7, 37 items recorded, A15, 38 items recorded and A4, 52 items recorded.

Unfortunately, none of the beaches were below the threshold value of 20 litter items per 100 meters that the European Union suggests.

# LITTER TYPES

Table 2: Five most abundant beach litter items, expressed as a percentage %.

ITEMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Pieces of plastic > 2.5 cm and <50 cm	38.2%
Cigarette butts and filters	12.9%
Plastic straws and stirrers	9.24%
Ropes of diameter < 1cm	5.8%
Plastic drink caps	4.8%

In the context of the 19 beach cleanups, more than 1,125 “Pieces of plastic > 2.5 cm and <50 cm”, 413 “Cigarette butts and filters”, 296 “Plastic straws and stirrers”, 187 “Ropes of diameter <1cm” and 154 “Plastic drink caps” were recorded.

# UNDERWATER CLEANUPS

21<sup>st</sup> Activity (A21): Port of Ksilokeratidi - Amorgos

22<sup>nd</sup> Activity (A22): Port of Stavros - Donousa

23<sup>rd</sup> Activity (A23): Port of Aegina

24<sup>th</sup> Activity (A24): Port of Megalochori

25<sup>th</sup> Activity (A25): Port of Nea Fokea

26<sup>th</sup> Activity (A26): Port of Nea Skioni

27<sup>th</sup> Activity (A27): Port of Nea Preveza

28<sup>th</sup> Activity (A28): Port of Nea Sivota

29<sup>th</sup> Activity (A29): Port of Nea Plataria

Table 3: Supplementary data of “Prospero” underwater cleanups conducted in the period of September 2024 - June 2025

ACTIVITY	DATE	VOLUNTEERS	DIVERS	LITTER (KG)
A21	02/11/2025	4	2	20
A22	07/11/2025	23	3	50
A23	10/3/2025	13	6	340
A24	13/03/2025	3	4	320
A25	26/03/2025	2	2	60
A26	27/3/2025	5	2	300
A27	8/4/2025	9	3	130
A28	10/4/2025	2	2	240
A29	11/04/2025	2	2	95
<b>Total</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,555</b>

# BENTHIC LITTER MONITORING RESULTS



In the context of the actions, and to survey the abundance of marine litter in each area, beach litter was monitored according to the framework and item list outlined in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

In total, 1,555 kg of litter was removed from all the ports. A total of 3,216 pieces of litter were removed and recorded, 64.8% of which were plastics. In consistence with the global literature and data, plastic was the most abundant type of litter across all the actions conducted.

## Number of benthic items removed and recorded per activity

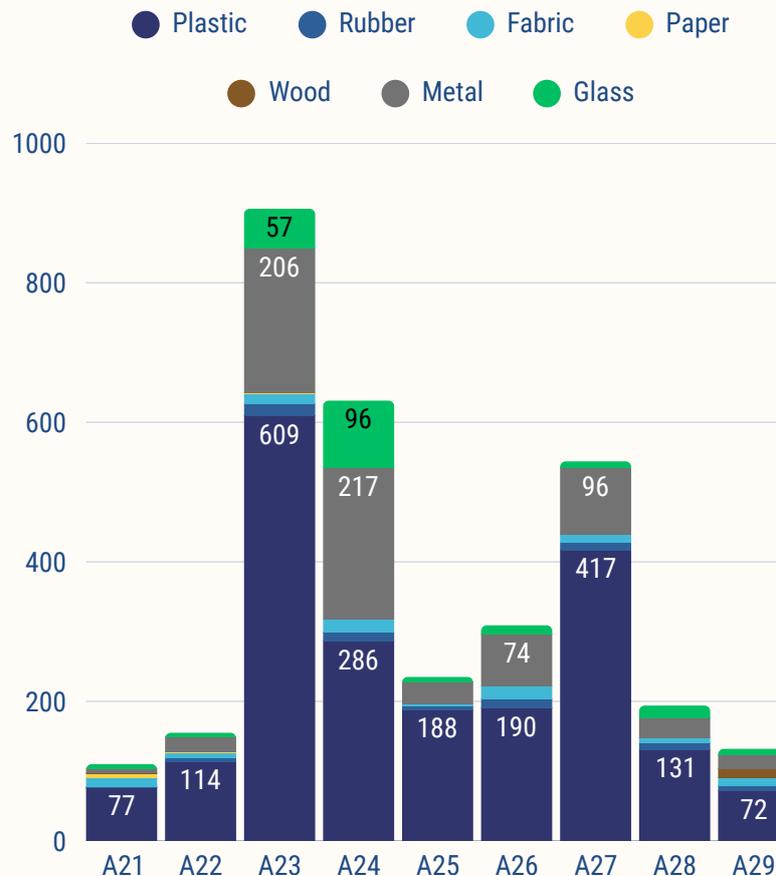


Figure 5: Collected and recorded benthic litter per category per activities

In all underwater cleanups, the “Plastic beverage bottles” counted a total of 887 items, the “Metal beverage cans” counted a total of 572 items, and the “Plastic cups and lid cups” counted 358 items from the total of 3,216 items removed.

The areas with the most litter removed were A23 with 906 items, A24 with 631 items and A27 with 544 items.

The first two areas are again in Saronikos gulf, which is considered one of the most polluted areas in the Mediterranean Sea (Spedicato et al., 2019), while the third one is a fishing port in the enclosed gulf of Amvrakikos in the biggest city of the area, Preveza

The areas with the least litter collected were A21, with 110 items, A29, with 132 items, and A22, with 155 items. A21 had fewer items because it was a new build port, and there wasn't much benthic litter gathered in the port. A29 had few items, probably because the divers didn't have good visibility, and it was difficult to find and remove items. A22 is a relatively small port on a small island, mostly with tourist boats and a few fishing boats

# LITTER TYPES

The percentage of plastic found at all the ports is 64.8%.

In all cleanup actions, plastic was the most abundant benthic litter type, followed by metal and glass.

More specific, the three most abundant benthic items were the “Plastic beverage bottles” with a percentage of 27.58%, followed by the “Metal beverage cans” with a percentage of 17.8% and “Plastic cups and cup lids” with a percentage of 11.1%.

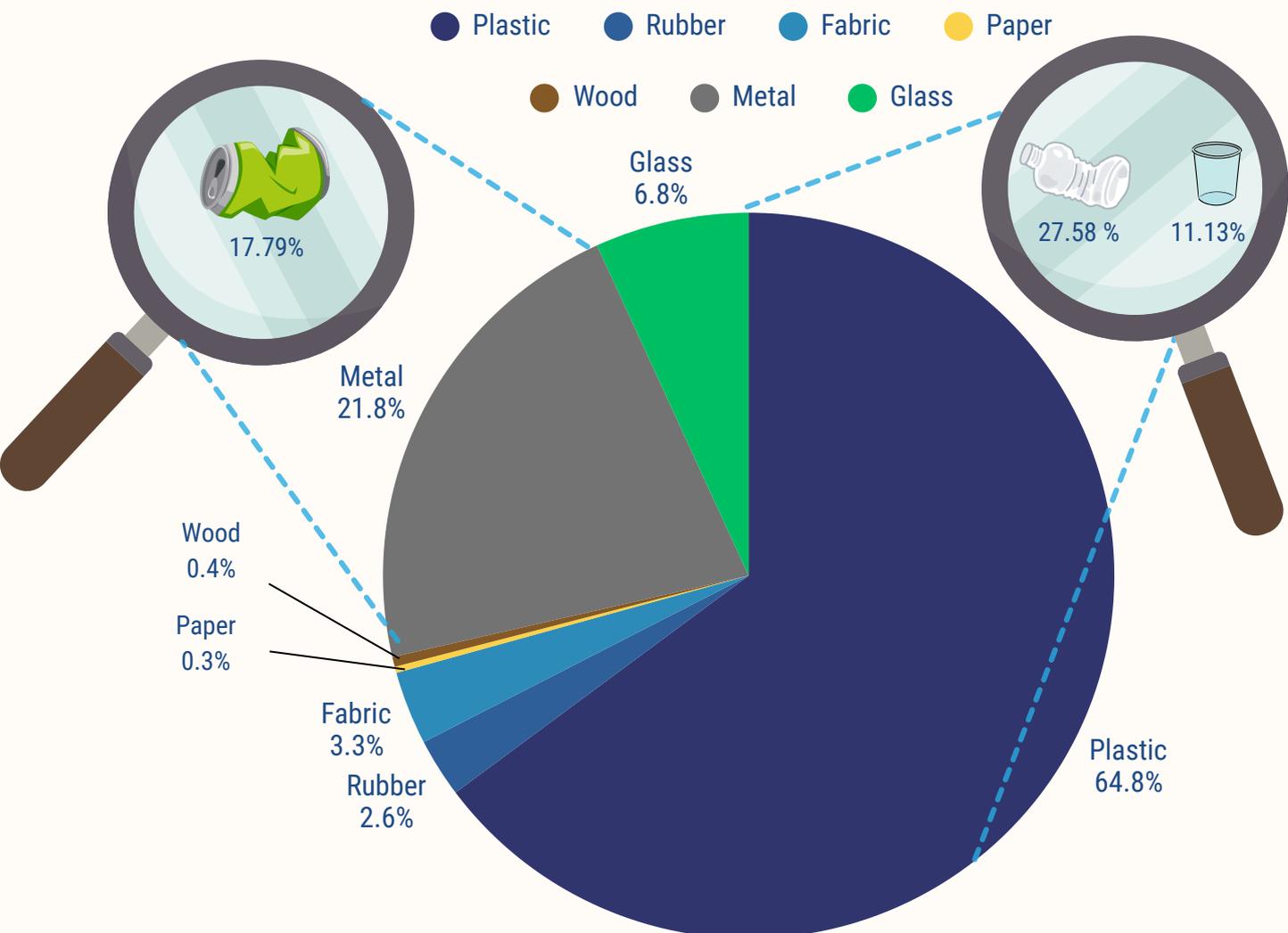


Figure 4: Collected types of benthic litter per underwater cleanup, expressed as a percentage of the total items (%).

In all ports cleanups, the **average value** of plastic items was 66.26%. In the category of plastics the most abundant items were plastic bottles (27.5%) and plastic cups and lids (11.1%) while in the category of metal, the most abundant items were metal beverage cans (17.7%)

# ECOLOGY IMPORTANT AREAS

Kalamas Delta - Ipirus



27.8 kg of litter removed

Pinios Delta - Thessaly



56.5 kg of litter removed

Evrotas Delta - Peloponnese



29 kg of litter removed

Agios Mamas wetland - Chalkidiki



125 kg of litter removed

Kithira island



5 kg of litter removed

# LITTER TYPES

Table 4: Five most abundant benthic litter, expressed as a percentage %.

ITEMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Plastic beverage bottles	27.5%
Metal beverage cans	17.8%
Plastic cups and cup lids	11.1%
Plastic bags	5.6%
Bottles including pieces	4.6%

The activity where the most benthic litter items were removed was in the Aegina port, where a total of 906 items, with the majority of them being “Plastic beverage bottles” (356 items), were removed. Following was the Megalochori port, where we removed a total of 631 benthic litter items, with the majority being “Metal beverage cans” (190 items). It is shown again that these two areas, which are located in Saronikos Gulf are the most polluted areas that the project visited this year.

# LANDMARK AREAS

Aegina island



340 kg of litter removed

Chania - Crete



6 kg of litter removed

# TOP BEACH AND BENTHIC LITTER - RECOMMENDATIONS

Cigarette butts and filters were the 2<sup>nd</sup> most abundant item in all the cleanups. To avoid their disposal in the environment, ashtrays should be placed in all public spaces in urban and remote areas, where recreational activities take place, like beaches and parks. Fines foreseen by each Municipality Cleaning Regulation should be enforced, especially in cases of non-proper disposal of cigarette butts and filters, or other small litter items. (Charitou A., EValuating MARine litter in Greece, 2024)



In accordance with the enforcement of the European Directive (EU) 2019/90412 and the National Law 4736/202013 Single-Use Plastic straws should be banned. However, they are illegally provided to customers, or they are mislabeled as reusable. Stricter controls on businesses should be enforced to track the illegal supply of Single-Use Plastic straws.



# TOP BEACH AND BENTHIC LITTER - RECOMMENDATIONS



Plastic bottles are among the top litter items found both on the beach and underwater. The number of available bins must be increased, especially in areas with many visitors, such as the two ports of Aegina and Agistri. The bins should be correctly maintained, ensuring that their lids are in good condition and can be properly closed. Additionally, bins should be properly secured during extreme weather events. Plastic bottles and cups are made of PET, a high-value recyclable plastic. Thus, PET items should be discarded separately by the consumers supported by the installation of dedicated recycling stations. Similarly, aluminum beverage cans and glass bottles should be collected separately for recycling, as they are both valuable recyclable materials.



Fishing activities highly affect the potential of marine litter hotspots. Thus, separate collection and alternative management schemes of fishing gear within the extended producer responsibility should be established in fishing ports, but also in ports and beaches where recreational fishing is common.

# PARTICIPATION

A total of 1,136 volunteers participated in all the beach and underwater cleanups

Specifically, 1,110 volunteers and 26 divers contributed to the action. Volunteers and divers included iSea members, as well as local schools and associations.

Table 5: Entities participated in all the actions

AREA	ENTITY
Kithira	Nursery school of Agia Pelagia
Sitia	1st Elementary School
Sitia	2nd Elementary School
Sitia	4th Elementary School
Schinousa	Nursery School and Elementary School
Schinousa	Pre-High School and High School
Donousa	Elementary School
Donousa	Nursery School
Donousa	Elementary School
Donousa	Pre-High School
Donousa	High School
Amorgos	EDOK Rescue Team
Aegina	Aegina Divers
Aggistri	Aegina Divers
Aggistri	High School of Skala
Chalkidiki	Hellenic Rescue Team
Chalkidiki	NGO You in Europe
Chalkidiki	Community of Agios Mamas
Chalkidiki	Youth Cultural Society of Nikiti - O SITHON
Chalkidiki	Community of Nikiti
Chalkidiki	Primary School of Nea Fokea the High
Chalkidiki	School of Nea Fokea
Chalkidiki	High School of Nikiti

# PARTICIPATION

Table 5: Entities participated in all the actions

AREA	ENTITY
Chalkidiki	Vocational High School of Nikiti
Chalkidiki	High School of Nea Kallikratia
Pinios	3 <sup>rd</sup> Highschool of Larissa
Ipirus	Pacific Ocean diving center
Ipirus	6th Primary School of Preveza
Ipirus	1 <sup>st</sup> High School of Preveza
Ipirus	2 <sup>nd</sup> High School of Preveza
Ipirus	1 <sup>st</sup> Vocational of Preveza
Ipirus	Nursery of Plataria
Ipirus	Primary School of Mesopotamos
Schinias	Environmental Team of Harokopio University



# PARTICIPATION

In the context of the project, we collaborated with local authorities to implement the actions (i.e. municipal authorities, coast guard)

Table 6: Authorities collaborated in all the actions

AREA	ENTITY
Kithira	Municipality of Kithira
Sitia	Municipality of Sitia
Sitia	Hellenic Coast Guard of Sitia
Chania	Municipality of Chania
Chania	Ephorate of Antiquities of Chania
Evrotas	Municipality of Evrotas
Evrotas	NECCA
Schinousa	Municipality of Schinousa
Schinousa	Hellenic Coast Guard of Schinousa
Schinousa	Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities
Donousa	Municipality of Donousa
Donousa	Hellenic Coast Guard of Donousa
Donousa	Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities
Donousa	Port Fund of Donousa
Amorgos	Municipality of Amorgos
Amorgos	Hellenic Coast Guard of Amorgos
Amorgos	Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities
Amorgos	Port Fund of Amorgos
Chalkidiki	Municipality of Nea Propontida
Chalkidiki	Municipality of Sithonia
Chalkidiki	Municipality of Kassandra
Chalkidiki	Port Fund of Kassandra
Chalkidiki	Hellenic Coast Guard of Nea Moudania
Chalkidiki	Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities

# PARTICIPATION

Table 6: Authorities collaborated in all the actions

AREA	ENTITY
Chalkidiki	NECCA
Chalkidiki	Hellenic Coast Guard of Neos Marmaras
Chalkidiki	Hellenic Coast Guard of Nea Moudania
Pinios	Municipality of Tempí
Pinios	NECCA
Ipirus	NECCA
Ipirus	Municipality of Preveza
Ipirus	Municipality of Parga
Ipirus	Municipality of Igoumenits
Ipirus	Hellenic Coast Guard of Preveza
Ipirus	Hellenic Coast Guard of Sivota
Ipirus	Hellenic Coast Guard of Parga
Ipirus	Hellenic Coast Guard of Igoumenitsa
Ipirus	Port Fund of Preveza
Ipirus	RADIO PREVEZA 93.0 FM
Ipirus	Preveza Municipality Radio 89.7 FM
Aegina	Municipality of Aegina
Aegina	Hellenic Coast Guard of Aegina
Aegina	Port Fund of Aegina
Aegina	Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities
Aggistri	Municipality of Aggistri
Aggistri	Port Fund of Aggistri
Aggistri	Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities
Aggistri	Hellenic Coast Guard of Aegina
Schinias	Municipality of Marathonas
Schinias	Hellenic Coast Guard of Rafina
Schinias	NECCA

# INFORMATIVE EVENTS

As part of the “Prosfero” project, 7 informative events took place in Aegina, Gonoj, Nea Moudania, Preveza, Chania, Amorgos, and Schinias

People attended the event, including locals and kids. The iSea representatives informed all the attendees about the aim and the actions of the “Prosfero” project and distributed informative material on marine pollution and measures for its prevention and mitigation.



More than 200 adults and children who attended the event had the opportunity to learn about the most common beach litter and to see items that have been removed from the seabed during underwater cleanups as well. Children played with the floor board game and answered questions about how they could change their everyday habits into zero waste and zero plastic. The event was implemented with the collaboration of all the involved municipalities.

The attendees were invited to all of the following clean-up activities and were encouraged to enter the project’s website to see more about our actions.



# COMMUNICATION PLAN

A total of 31 “stories” were published via Social Media by iSea during the actions to inform the public about the progress of each action, maintain interest in the project, and raise awareness about the issue of marine litter and its impact on marine ecosystems.

Table 7: Number of stories published and their reach to the public

STORY	REACH
iSea 1	192
iSea 2	211
iSea 3	228
iSea 4	239
iSea 5	250
iSea 6	264
iSea 7	263
iSea 8	342
iSea 9	338
iSea 10	332
iSea 11	330
iSea 12	296
iSea 13	289
iSea 14	310
iSea 15	351
iSea 16	349



# COMMUNICATION PLAN

## STORY

## REACH

iSea 17	423
iSea 18	447
iSea 19	499
iSea 20	497
iSea 21	546
iSea 22	629
iSea 23	612
iSea 24	717
iSea 25	667
iSea 26	841
iSea 27	770
iSea 28	744
iSea 29	1.117
iSea 30	1.077
iSea 31	1.720



# COMMUNICATION PLAN

Press releases were created and shared with the local press and uploaded on iSea's website before every wave of cleanups, inviting the local communities to participate in the campaign and providing information about the schedule of the upcoming actions.

Table 8: Press releases uploaded on the website of iSea and their reach

PRESS RELEASE	LINK	VIEWS
Saronikos wave	<a href="#"><u>Link 1</u></a>	34
Chalkidiki wave	<a href="#"><u>Link 2</u></a>	9
Ipirus wave	<a href="#"><u>Link 3</u></a>	38
Cyclades wave	<a href="#"><u>Link 4</u></a>	8
Ecological and landmark actions	<a href="#"><u>Link 5</u></a>	27
Total visits of Prosfero webpage	<a href="#"><u>Link 6</u></a>	103

# COMMUNICATION PLAN

Table 9: Press releases about the Prosero project published regarding all the actions

MEDIA	LINK
Facebook Municipality of Kassanda	<a href="#"><u>Link 1</u></a>
Ergo Chalkidikis	<a href="#"><u>Link 2</u></a>
Chalkidiki Politiki	<a href="#"><u>Link 3</u></a>
Facebook Chalkidiki Politiki	<a href="#"><u>Link 4</u></a>
Ergo Chalkidikis	<a href="#"><u>Link 5</u></a>
Hania news	<a href="#"><u>Link 6</u></a>
Kythera news	<a href="#"><u>Link 7</u></a>
Notos press	<a href="#"><u>Link 8</u></a>
Naniotika nea	<a href="#"><u>Link 9</u></a>
Creta one	<a href="#"><u>Link 10</u></a>
Creta times	<a href="#"><u>Link 11</u></a>
Efimerida Sitiaka	<a href="#"><u>Link 12</u></a>
Efimerida Sitiaka	<a href="#"><u>Link 13</u></a>
Municipality of Sitia	<a href="#"><u>Link 14</u></a>
Anatolh online	<a href="#"><u>Link 15</u></a>
Syros press	<a href="#"><u>Link 16</u></a>
Cyclades 24	<a href="#"><u>Link 17</u></a>
Naxos times	<a href="#"><u>Link 18</u></a>

# COMMUNICATION PLAN

MEDIA	LINK
Naxos press	<a href="#"><u>Link 19</u></a>
Naxos times	<a href="#"><u>Link 20</u></a>
Aegina portal	<a href="#"><u>Link 21</u></a>
Aegina portal	<a href="#"><u>Link 22</u></a>
Aegina portal	<a href="#"><u>Link 23</u></a>



Find out more about  
Prospero project



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for the Preservation of the  
Aquatic Ecosystems

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