PROSFERO

Beach and underwater cleanups in the Gulf of Corinth

iSea

THESSALONIKI, 2026

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Suggested report
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This interim report concerns actions implemented within the framework of the 23rd wave of Prosfero.

The actions in the Gulf of Corinth were implemented in collaboration with the Ozon organization. At the same time, we would like to thank the employees of P&G, the "Agios Nikolaos" Association of Aliki-Aigio, the Federation of Aigialeia Associations, the KRISSAIOS diving team, Project Ka.Pa, the Loutraki Forest Fire Protection Volunteers Association, the Rio Community, the Rio Cultural Association, the University of Patras Oceanus Lab, Intermediakt, the Environmental Chemistry Research Group of the University of Patras, the 6th Sea Scout System of Rio, the 4th High School of Corinth, the 2nd Primary School of Xylokastro, the 2nd High School of Xylokastro, the 1st High School of Aigio, the 4th High School of Aigio, the 1st Primary School of Loutraki and the Primary School of Antikira for their cooperation and participation.

CONTENTS

Until now

338 beach & underwater cleanups

>98 tons of litter have been removed

Beach cleanups

1st Action (D1): Aspropyrgos Beach, Attica
2nd Action (D2): Xylokastro Beach, Xylokastro
3rd Action (D3): Loutraki Beach, Loutraki
4th Action (D4): Aigio Beach, Aigio
5th Action (D5): Aliki Beach, Aigio
6th Action (D6): Rio Beach, Patras
7th Action (D7): Galaxidi Beach, Galaxidi
8th Activity (D8): Antikira Beach, Antikira

Table 1: Beach cleanup data in the context of the project, May 2026.

Action	Action date	Number of volunteers	Kilos of litter
D1	16-05-2026	58	67.7
D2	18-05-2026	90	89.9
D3	19-05-2026	8	8.6
D4	20-05-2026	60	31.7
D5	21-05-2026	40	26.7
D6	22-05-2026	28	88.16
D7	25-05-2026	10	17.8
D8	26-05-2026	60	11.6
Σύνολο		**414**	**342.16**

Litter recording results

As part of the actions to study the abundance of marine litter in the area, the marine litter on the beaches we visited was recorded and counted, according to the protocol established by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

8 BEACHES

342,16 KILOS

235 avg. ITEMS / 100m.
limit value 20 items / 100m.

90.6% PLASTIC

These results are in line with the findings of the international bibliography, according to which plastics are the dominant type of litter in marine and beach ecosystems. Their high proportion confirms the need for targeted actions to prevent and reduce plastic pollution in the areas under consideration.

Litter categories

The average percentage of plastic recorded across all beaches was 90.6%. Across all beach cleanups, plastic was the most abundant of all litter categories.

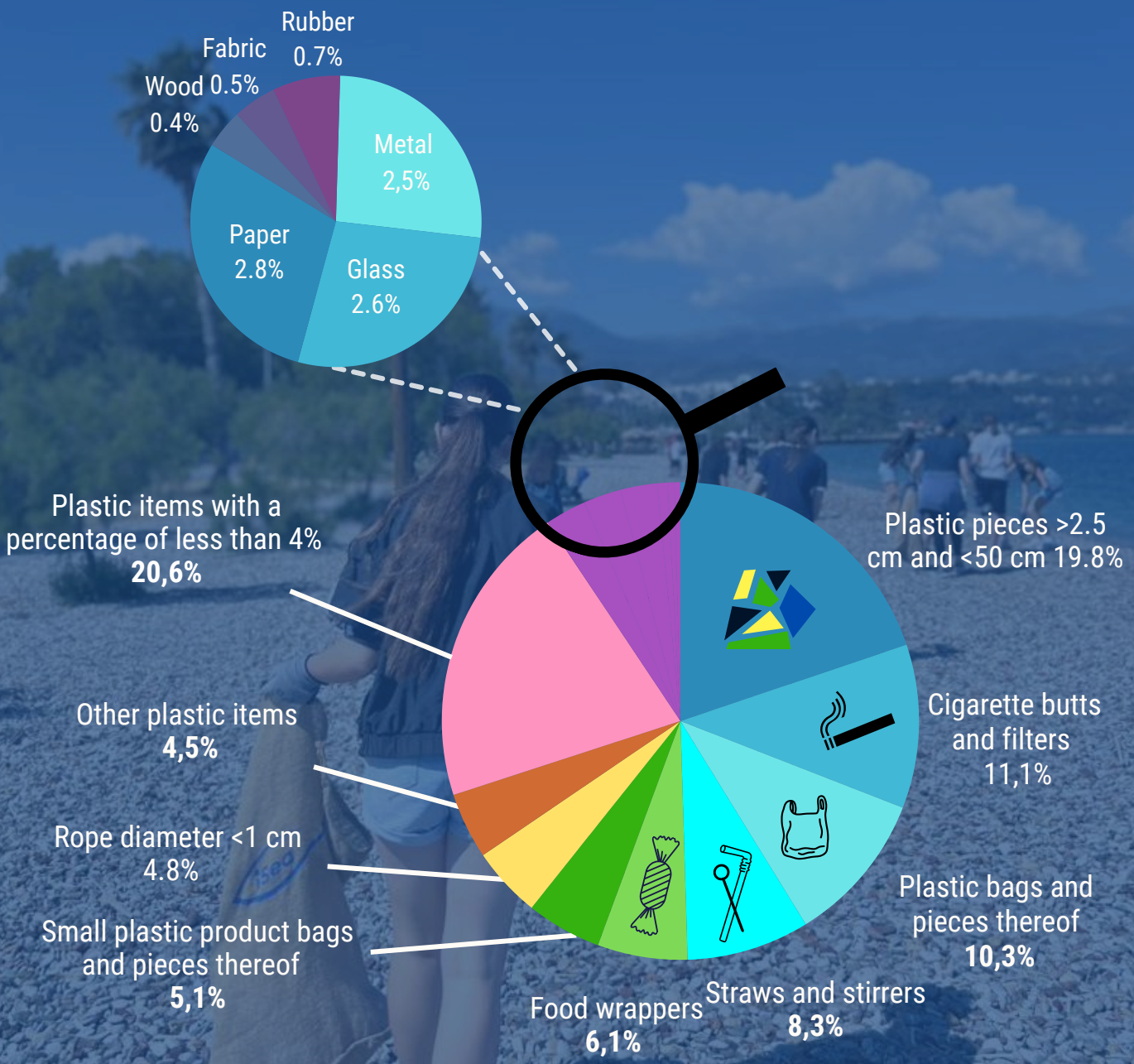


Figure 1: Waste categories in percentage (%), as derived from the recording of litter in beach clean-up actions in the Gulf of Corinth.

Litter categories

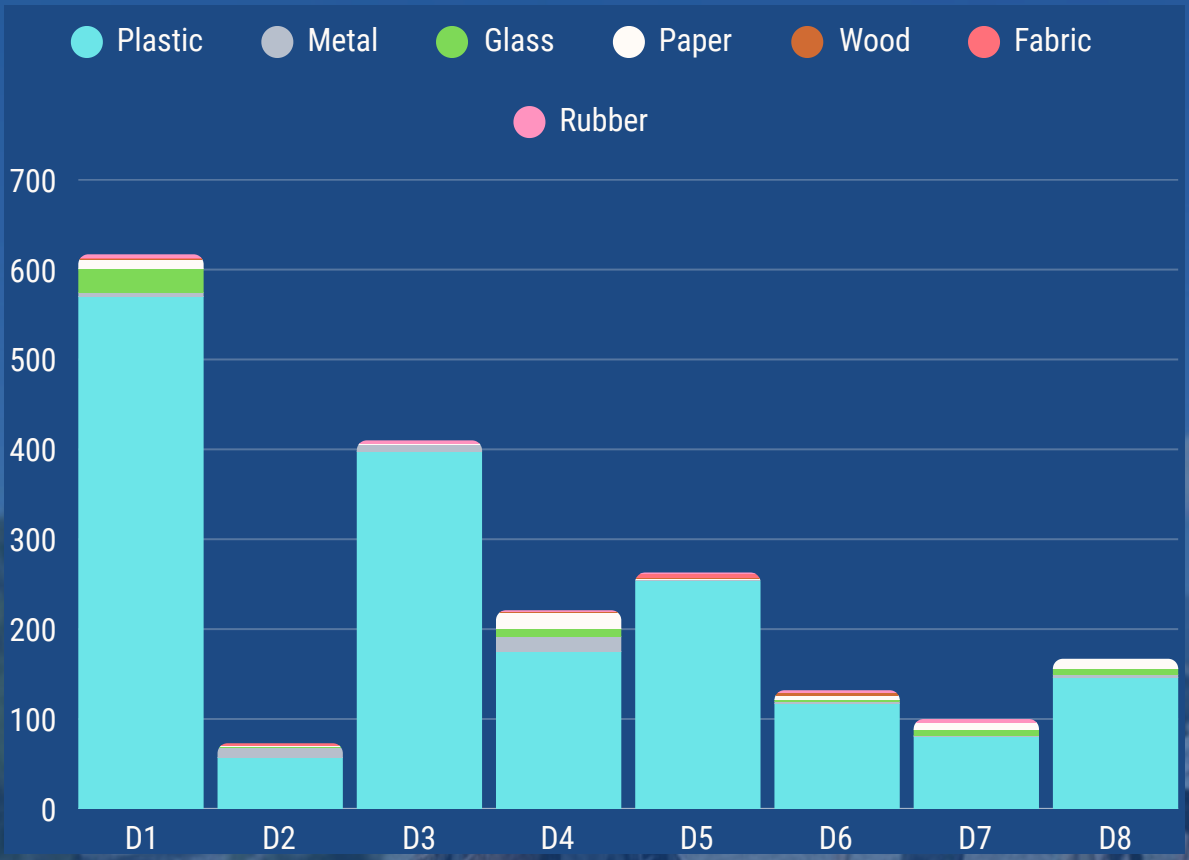


Figure 2: Total number of litter items per category for each beach.

On all the beaches we visited, plastic litter was the most frequently recorded category.

Specifically:

- **D1 - Aspropyrgos - 570 plastic items per 50 meters**
- **D2 - Xylokastro - 57 plastic items per 100 meters**
- **D3 - Loutraki - 398 plastic items per 100 meters**
- **D4 - Aigio - 175 plastic items per 100 meters**
- **D5 - Aliki Aigio - 254 plastic items per 100 meters**
- **D6 - Rio - 117 plastic items per 100 meters**
- **D7 - Galaxidi - 80 plastic items per 100 meters**
- **D8 - Antikira - 146 plastic items per 40 meters**

These records reflect the true picture of the areas.

Litter categories

Table 2: The most abundant beach litter in %.

ITEMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Plastic pieces >2.5 cm and <50 cm	19.80%
Cigarette butts and filters	11.10%
Plastic bags and their parts	10.30%
Straws and stirrers	8.30%
Food wrappers	6.10%

Beach status

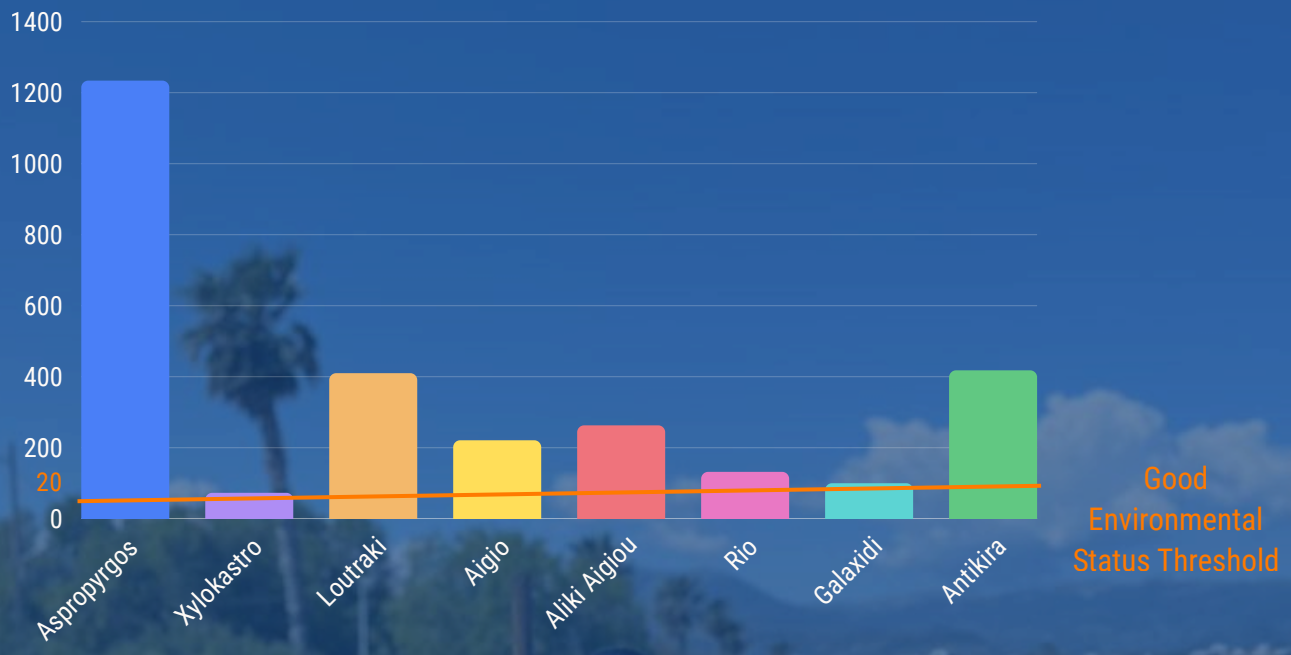


Figure 3: Total amount of litter per beach and comparison with the maximum litter limit per 100 meters to achieve Good Environmental Status.

The diagram shows the total amount of litter recorded on the four beaches where the actions were implemented. The horizontal orange line shows the maximum litter limit for achieving Good Environmental Status set by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive at 20 items per 100 meters of coastline. As can be seen, almost all beaches far exceed the Limit Value that has been set. On beaches where the recording was done on fewer meters, the items per 100 meters were calculated proportionally.

The beach at Aspropyrgos has the highest total amount of litter (617 items per 50 meters). This increased concentration is likely due to the morphology of the beach, as it is located in a cove, where litter is more easily trapped. At the same time, the presence of a commercial port, as well as fishing and tourism activity in the area, contribute significantly to the increased litter concentration.

Underwater cleanups

1st Action (D1): Port of Corinth, Corinth
2nd Action (D2): Port of Xylokastro , Xylokastro*
3rd Action (D3): Port of Loutraki, Loutraki
4th Action (D4): Port of Itea, Itea

*The underwater cleanup in Xylokastro was not carried out due to the intense turbidity of the waters.

Table 3: Underwater cleanup data in the context of the project, May 2026.

Action	Action date	Number of volunteers	Kilos of litter
D1	15-05-2026	41	231
D2	18-05-2026	-	-
D3	19-05-2026	10	135
D4	26-05-2026	6	500
Total		**57**	**866**

Marine litter monitoring results

The average percentage of plastics recorded in underwater cleanups was 54.9%, followed by metal items with 30.6%.

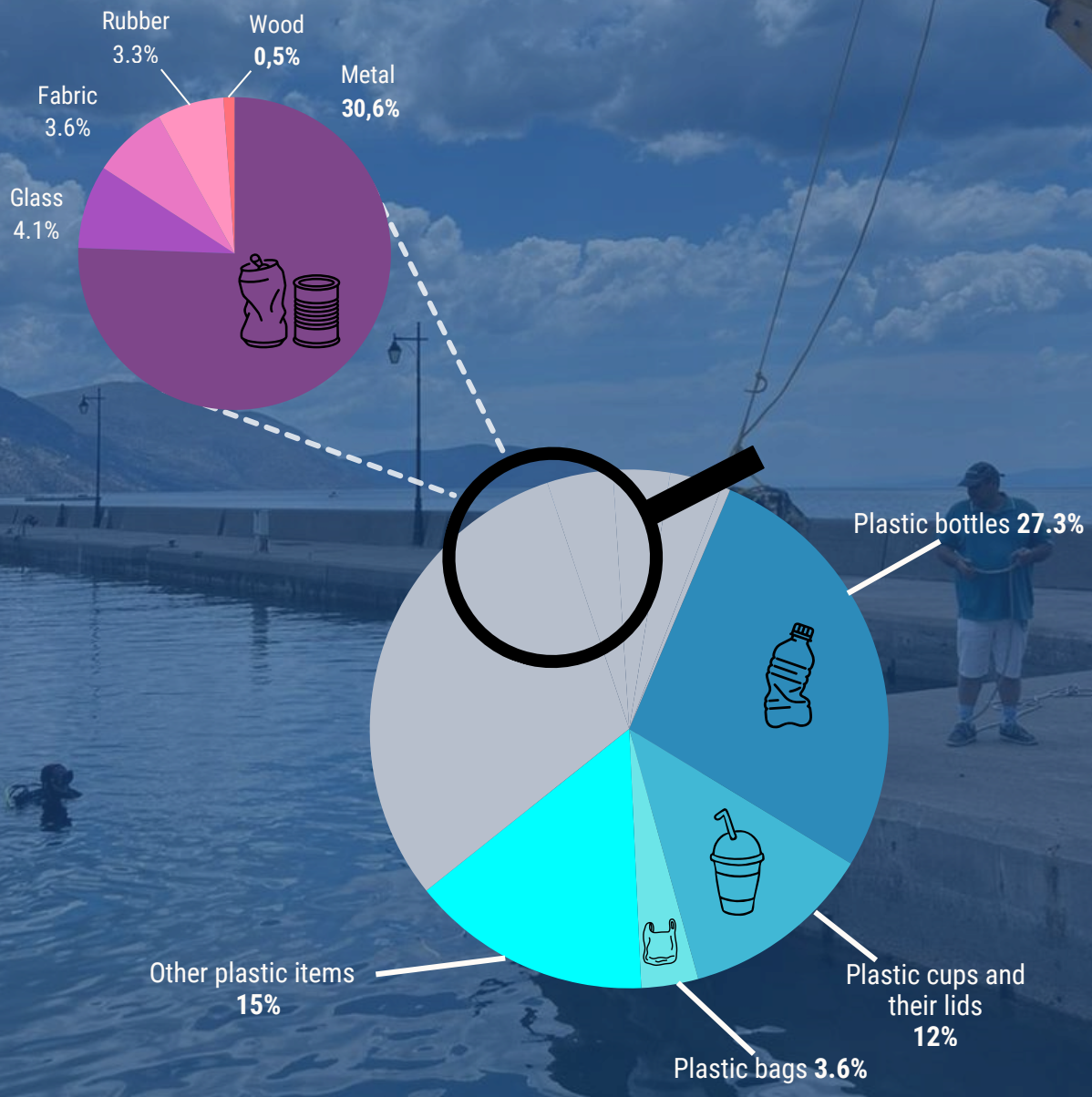


Figure 4: Litter categories as a percentage (%), as derived from underwater cleanups in the Gulf of Corinth.

Litter categories

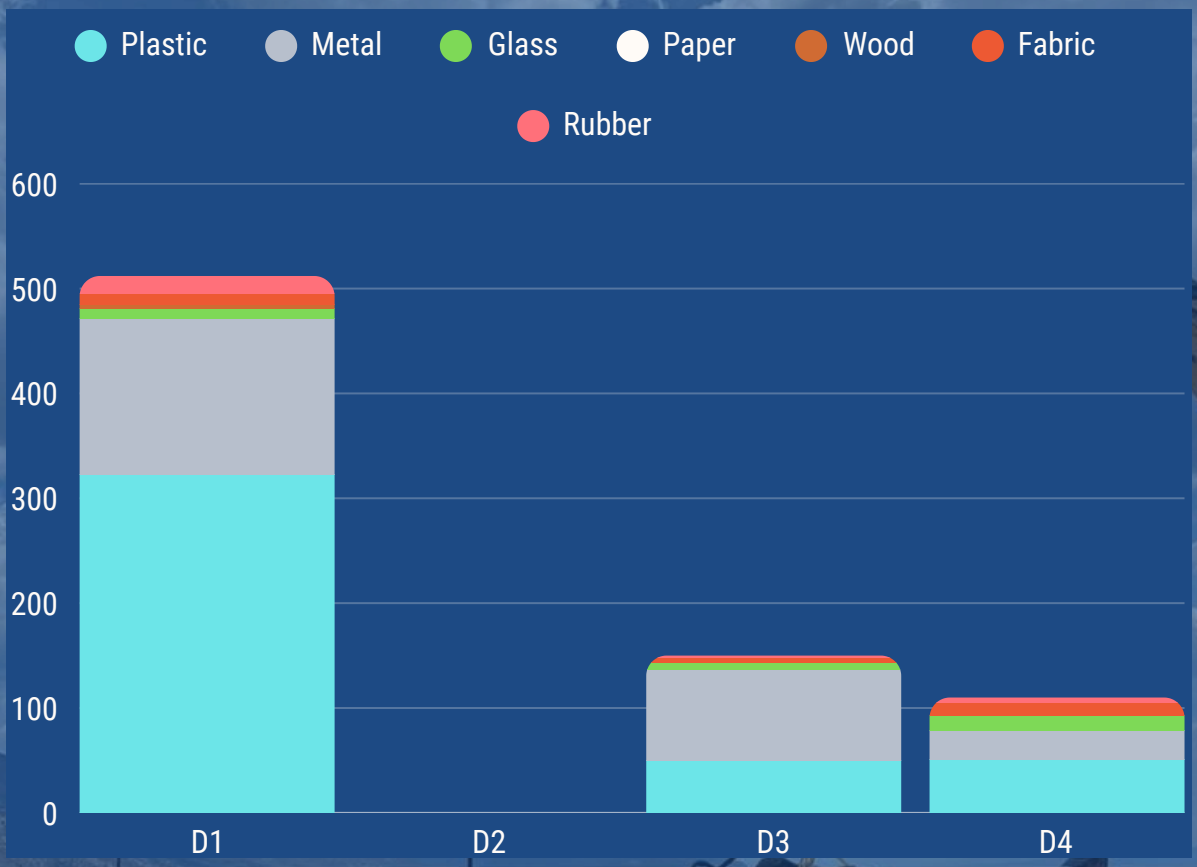


Figure 5: Total number of litter items per category for each port.

In the underwater cleanups in Corinth and Itea, plastic litter was the most frequently recorded category, while in Loutraki, metal was the most prevalent. The findings mainly concerned single-use plastics and soft drink cans, while bulky objects included supermarket trolleys, car tires, a bicycle, chairs and a boat. The composition of this litter reflects the frequent pollution observed in port areas, where human activity leads to the accumulation of materials that significantly burden the marine ecosystem.

Litter categories

Table 4: The most abundant underwater litter in %.

ITEMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Soft drink cans	26.4%
Plastic bottles	25.9%
Cups and their lids	11.4%
Plastic bags	3.4%
Car tires and their parts	2.8%

Port status

According to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the aim is to ensure that the properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the beach and marine environment.

For litter visually recorded from the seabed, EU Member States recently agreed on a limit of no more than 1 litter item per 1.000 m² to achieve Good Environmental Status.

The litter densities recorded during underwater clean-ups were well above this limit in all three ports examined. The port of Corinth reached 97.9 items/1.000m², the port of Loutraki 149 items/1.000m² and the port of Itea 67.2 items/1.000m². These values far exceed the limit set for achieving Good Environmental Status.

Port status

Table 5: Density of marine litter on the seabed and comparison with the EU Good Environmental Status (GES) threshold.

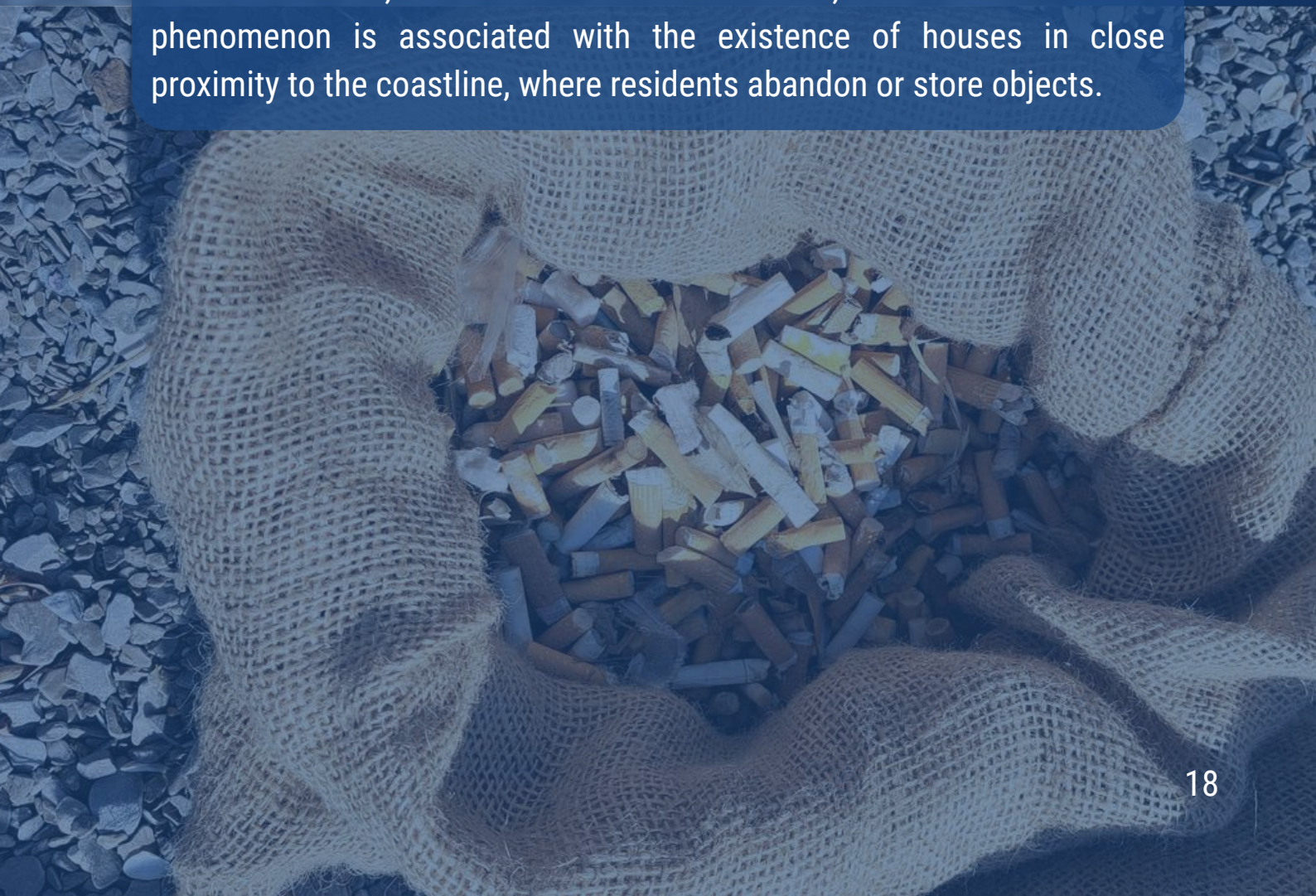
Location	Litter density (items/1.000 m²)
Port of Corinth	97.97
Port of Loutraki	149.2
Port of Itea	67.2

It should also be noted that these results are likely to be conservative, as they are based on the items collected. Cleanups were limited by dive duration, safety conditions, and underwater visibility. Consequently, it was not possible to remove or record all of the litter present during the available sampling time.

Litter of local interest

During the beach clean-ups in Aigio, a significant number of cigarette butts and cigarette filters were recorded, as well as many fishing lines. Cigarette butts, due to their small size and frequent use, easily accumulate in the beach environment and are difficult to collect completely.

At the same time, in the Xylokastro area, the presence of bulky objects, such as chairs, umbrellas and SUP boards, was observed. This phenomenon is associated with the existence of houses in close proximity to the coastline, where residents abandon or store objects.



Suggestions

To effectively address the above phenomena, the following are proposed:

- Installation of appropriate litter collection infrastructure, such as bins and special containers for smaller litter (e.g. cigarette butts) on beaches and recreational areas and daily litter collection by Municipalities.
- Strengthening cooperation with local professionals, such as fishermen, for the proper management and disposal of equipment (e.g. fishing lines).
- Installation of informational signage, aiming to raise awareness among visitors about the impacts of waste on the environment.
- Systematic checks and surveillance, especially in areas where dumping of bulky objects is observed.
- Organizing regular cleaning actions and participatory initiatives - to strengthen the active participation of the local community.

Informative events

Within the framework of the "Prosfero" project, two informative events were implemented in collaboration with the Ozon organization, in the cities of Corinth and Aigio, under the auspices of the Municipality of Corinth and Aigio, respectively.

Through the activity, a total of 79 people were informed, many of whom subsequently took part in the beach cleanups. iSea representatives informed all attendees about the objectives and actions of the program and distributed information material with information on marine pollution, as well as on proposed measures for its prevention and treatment.

Adults and children who participated in the informative event had the opportunity to learn about the most common types of litter found on Greek beaches and to see up close indicative objects that have been removed as part of underwater and beach cleanups.

The participation of children was particularly interesting, as they learned through the floor-based question game about ways in which they can adopt environmentally sound and responsible habits.

Participation

Aliki

- 4th High School of Aigio
- Federation of Aigialeia Associations
- Agios Nikolaos Aliki Association

Aigio

- 1st High School of Aigio

Antikira

- Antikira Primary School

Galaxidi

- Municipality of Delphi
- Galaxidi Community

Itea

- KRISSAIOS Diving Team

Corinth

- Ozon
- 4th High School of Corinth

Participation

Xylokastro

- Ozon
- 2nd Primary School of Xylokastro

Loutraki

- Ozon
- Municipality of Loutraki-Perachora
- Loutraki Forest Fire Protection Volunteer Association

Loutraki

- Ozon
- Loutraki Forest Fire Protection Volunteer Association

Aspropyrgos

- Procter & Gamble

Rio

- Ocean Lab
- Intermediakt
- Project Ka.Pa
- Community of Rio
- Cultural Association of Rio
- 6th Sea Scouts System of Rio
- Environmental Chemistry Research Group of the University of Patras

Participation

The underwater cleanup in Xylokastro did not take place due to the intense turbidity of the waters. However, the 2nd High School of Xylokastro attended the site, and its students were informed about the program, marine litter, as well as about divers' equipment and possible litter found in the marine environment.

In addition, two schools, the 1st Primary School of Loutraki and the 1st Kindergarten of Itea respectively, participated in the underwater cleanup actions in Loutraki and Itea. The students were informed about the program and marine litter, and had the opportunity to observe the divers during their preparation, as well as during the collection of benthic litter.

Communication

During the actions, a total of 7 stories were published on iSea's Social Media, aiming to inform the public about the actions and raise awareness about the problem of marine litter and its impacts on the marine ecosystem. The stories were posted on iSea's Instagram and Facebook profiles, with a total reach of 4.132 accounts.

With the aim of better informing the public about the actions, an event was created on Facebook with details about the program.

At the start of the actions, 1 post was made on all iSea Social Media, in which the upcoming actions in the Gulf of Corinth were presented.

Table 6: iSea Social Media Post regarding the actions

	REACH	REACTIONS	LINK
Facebook	980	17	Link
Instagram	1.446	36	Link
LinkedIn	541	17	Link

Communication

A Press Release was created and shared with local media and posted on the iSea website, inviting the local community to participate in the program and providing information about the planned actions. At the same time, UP FM 103.7 Radio Station provided communication support for our actions.

PRESS RELEASE	VISITS
We offer cleaner seas and beaches in the Gulf of Corinth	89

Communication

Table 7: Press articles regarding the program's actions in the Gulf of Corinth.

MEDIA	LINK
Sikionia	Link 1
Sfedona	Link 2
Daily Corinth	Link 3
KorinthiaNet.GR	Link 4
MyPressNet	Link 5
Daily Corinth	Link 6
Loutraki Blog	Link 7
Daily Corinth	Link 8
Daily Corinth	Link 9
FokidaNews.gr	Link 10
Loutraki Blog	Link 11
Daily Corinth	Link 12
Agrinio Press	Link 13
FokidaNews.gr	Link 14
Protionline.gr	Link 15
Loutraki Blog	Link 16
Aigio Voice	Link 17

Acknowledgments

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Learn more about the Prosfero program

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