

## **CIESM Congress Session : Marine litter, microplastics**

**Moderator : François Galgani, LER/PAC, Ifremer, France**

### *Moderator's Synthesis*

The session on marine litter was very active with more than 60 attendants. After a short introduction explaining why the Mediterranean Sea is one of the most affected region worldwide, 9 presentations were given covering the main aspects of marine litter pollution, including spatial and temporal distribution of floating and sea floor debris, typology, modelling, degradation, ingestion (fish, holothurians, etc.) and other impacts of marine debris and micro plastics, also considering new methods of separation. These studies were conducted all over the Mediterranean Basin , including the Iberian Peninsula, the Gulf of Lion, the north-eastern Adriatic, the Aegean Sea and the western Black Sea. The results demonstrated that marine litter has become a very important issue with knowledge gaps to be filled and needs for more scientific studies in order to better understand the fate and impacts in the Mediterranean Sea. Finally, a very active discussion highlighted the need for action and awareness to address its increasing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems.

