

## **CIESM Congress Session : Coastal pollution hotspots**

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### *Moderator's Synthesis*

This session focused on the links between scientific research and pollution management. The five speakers covered a wide range of marine pollution sources in various parts of the NE Mediterranean including oil spills, marine debris and harbour activities. Alarming results were shown in the specific studies, as oil and detergent contamination were measured in high concentrations in Prince islands of Marmara Sea; the ecological impact in zoobenthos from harbour activities is of great magnitude in Turkish coastal areas; the coastline of Lesbos island has been highly impacted by marine debris aggregated as a result of the refugee crisis and finally, beaches of W. Greece showed litter and microbiological pollution deriving from urban/domestic/recreational activities.

The presentations stimulated a constructive discussion on the links and gaps between research and the control mechanisms in the various countries, specifically on the enforcement of management and pollution control measures. Methods of monitoring were also discussed, such as the use of remote sensing coupled with ground-truth data as a powerful monitoring tool for marine litter. For a more integrated picture, a possible inclusion of Marine Litter in the European Marine Observation and Data Network phase 3 report, was also mentioned. Moreover, the engagement of specific stakeholder groups such as fishermen was proposed. A general agreement was reached that scientists can and need to acquire a more active role in order to better contribute to the enforcement of pollution management and controlling strategies.

