

# World aquariums against marine litter

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## *Les aquariums du monde contre les déchets marins*

*Awareness campaign against marine pollution led by the European Union in the framework of the "Our Ocean" conference, (Malta, 5-6 October 2017).  
This initiative, supported by dozens of aquariums worldwide, is an EU contribution to the #CleanSeas campaign launched by the UN Environment.*

#OurOcean

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## The European Commission is calling all aquariums to join a global awareness raising action about marine litter.

**Over 3 billion people depend directly on our seas for their livelihoods.** But in reality, all of us depend on the ocean: for our water, our food, our climate and our air.

Seas and oceans enrich our identity, ensure our wellbeing and sustain a large part of the economy.

Human action has left our ocean heavily affected by pollution, overexploitation, coastal degradation and global warming. This has severe consequences for all.

**Every year millions of tons of litter end up in the ocean. It is estimated that by 2050 our seas could contain more plastic than fish by weight.**

**80+ aquariums around the globe have joined forces** to bring to public attention the growing threats of marine pollution, and present within their walls some initiatives to foster community engagement and propose concrete solutions.

Involved aquariums' listing:

<https://ourocean2017.org/fr/campaigns/les-aquariums-du-monde-contre-les-dechets-en-mer>





*Doug Cress, Erik Solheim, Robert Calcagno, Karmenu Vella, Philippe Pasqua, H.S.H. Prince Albert II de Monaco, S.E. M. Serge Telle, Nadia Ounaïs, Gilles Tonelli, Marie-Pierre Gramaglia - © Philippe Fitte*

**One of the first aquarium who joined the movement, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and its C.E.O., Robert Calcagno, welcomed H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and Erik Solheim, Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of July for the official launch of the European campaign « World aquariums against marine litter ».**



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*« Plastics are a major threat. Not only for animal species that ingest them directly, but also for the food chain of which they are a part, and consequently for all marine ecosystems and, by extension, for human health (...). This is why it is essential to utilize awareness-raising efforts on such a major issue, like the initiative bringing us together today. This campaign, through the mobilization of more than 80 aquaria, and in particular thanks to the action of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, will make its voice heard far and wide, within Europe and beyond. »*

**H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco**

*« Aquariums are a TV Screen to the ocean. This campaign on Marine Litter is urgent and welcome. The World's Aquariums have decided to become the Ocean's 'breaking news' to avoid becoming its history channel. The support we have received is very encouraging. Prince Albert II is tireless in his efforts – a true ocean champion. The Oceanography institute is an iconic aquarium for the launch. »*

**Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**

*« Together, the 'World Aquariums Against Marine Litter' and UN Environment's 'Clean Seas' campaigns are turning the tide on plastic. With our shared determination to eliminate major sources of marine litter, we can raise awareness and trigger action for the UN Environment Assembly on pollution taking place in December in Kenya. »*

**Erik Solheim, Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)**

“Plastic pollution is really insidious. As plastic is mainly an inert material, plastic pollution does not have the same crushing and spectacular effects as other pollutions, such as chemical pollution. Therefore plastic pollution went unnoticed for several decades. (...) Aquariums must play their role of public awareness and advocacy to sensitize about this issue and to change behaviours. (...) Aquariums also have to use the most modern tools such as the recent progress in behavioural sciences and the unlimited new possibilities of the digital world. »

**Robert Calcagno, C.E.O. of the Oceanographic Institute, Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco**



# Marine Pollution

Virtually every corner of the world's oceans is affected by pollution, a **growing global challenge with an acute environmental, social and economic impact.**

Marine pollution provokes deep ecological shifts, great losses in biodiversity and reduced commercial yields. Contaminants such as heavy metals accumulated through the food chain or bacterial loads in coastal waters directly affect the health of millions of people.

**Plastic litter and urban waste are accumulating worldwide at an alarming rate. In some areas, micro plastics already outnumber plankton by six to one.**

Marine pollution costs billions. Dangerous items such as lost containers and fishing gear directly threaten navigation, infrastructure, marine species and human lives.

**Tackling marine pollution is an ambitious challenge, but also a great opportunity:** a circular economy that reduces waste could yield billions in cash just by improving efficiency. The need for litter recovery and recycling will open the door to new innovative business models. Such 'blue' entrepreneurship will not only help to improve the health and productivity of the marine environment, it will also allow smart solutions for sustainable development to flourish.

**The Our Ocean Conference is looking for commitments from public authorities, business and civil society to help reduce contamination and littering, and develop initiatives that make ocean litter prevention, recovery and recycling more efficient.** With political will building momentum, this year's conference aims to see the kind of commitment to action that will finally reverse the trend of ever-increasing marine pollution.



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## Marine pollution – Key facts :

By 2050, **99% of seabirds** could have ingested plastic



**80% of marine litter** comes from land sources



**Over 3 billion people** depend directly on our oceans for their livelihoods



**10 million tonnes** of litter are dumped in the seas every year



By 2050, there could be **more plastic than fish** in the seas



# Pollution marine, les chiffres clés / Key facts

**10 millions de tonnes** de déchets finissent chaque année dans les mers  
**10 million tonnes** of litter are dumped in the seas every year



Cela représente un camion à ordures par minute **400 kilos par seconde !**  
*That is one garbage truck per minute, 400 kilos per second!*



**80 %** des déchets marins proviennent de sources terrestres  
*80% of marine litter comes from land sources*



À l'horizon 2050, il pourrait y avoir dans les mers plus de plastique que de poissons  
*By 2050, there could be more plastic than fish in the seas*



Les déchets tuent des **millions** d'animaux marins chaque année  
**Millions** of marine animals die every year because of litter



Chaque mégot pollue des centaines de litres d'eau et sa dégradation prend des années  
*Each cigarette butt pollutes hundreds of litres of water and takes years to degrade*



D'ici 2050, **99 %** des oiseaux marins pourraient avoir ingéré du plastique  
*By 2050, 99% of seabirds could have ingested plastic*

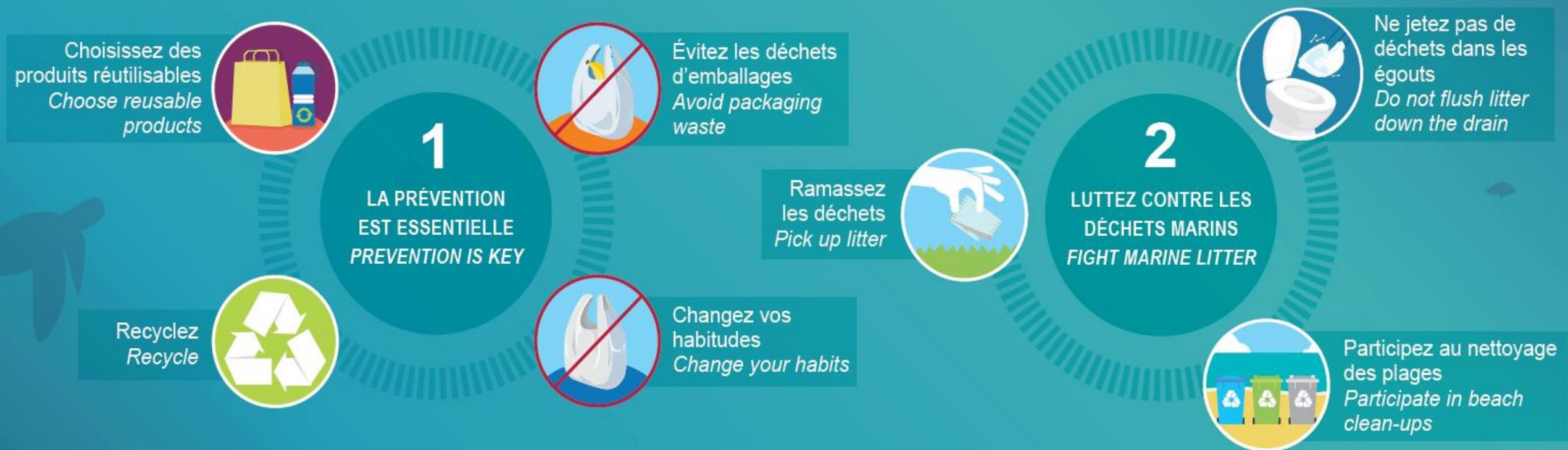
La communauté mondiale est prête à se mobiliser pour la campagne / *The global community is ready to act for*



## #OurOcean



# Que pouvez-vous faire ? *What can you do?*



La communauté mondiale est prête à se mobiliser pour la campagne / *The global community is ready to act for*

## By working with artist Philippe Pasqua in order to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco has chosen art as a vector for raising awareness about marine litter.

### ***Profanation, a Work by Philippe Pasqua, 2017***

What is displayed here comes from the deepest recesses of the Ocean. This debris was harvested in a single dive. Artist Philippe Pasqua, alert to the problem of marine pollution, has appropriated it to create a work which testifies to the impact of Man on the natural world. Lifting a toilet lid, a clown is meddling in the basin, challenging the visitor. Is this an evil force or simply a representative of the human race wearing a mask so that he can pollute anonymously?

This basin is part of the “World Aquariums against Marine Litter” campaign led by the European Union and supported by the Oceanographic Institute. Tens of aquariums around the world are relaying this message simultaneously. We all have a part to play in the fight against this type of pollution... Help us to preserve the oceans intact.



*Profanation* - © Oceanographic Museum - Michel Dagnino

« *Profanation* » - See the making-of on <http://youtube.com/MonacoOceano>



# Against marine litter, Monaco makes a commitment!

Under the leadership of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Principality is engaged in a significant dynamic:

- Implementation of the ban of all plastic bags from the shops of the principality
- Ban on all single use plastic kitchen tools as of 2020
- Implementation of the Task Force « beyond Plastic Med », a Mediterranean network of local players against plastic pollution in the Mediterranean sea
- Public outreach: exhibitions, publications, communication and conferences on sustainable consumption
- The clean-up of underwater sites



Les acteurs de Monaco engagés pour la protection des océans / Monaco stakeholders involved in the protection of the oceans



Avec le soutien de / With the support of



# Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation involved in the « Beyond Plastic Med » project



## A COMMITMENT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

**THE PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION, WITH ITS BEMED'S PARTNERS, IS COMMITTED TO COMBATTING PLASTIC IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS FOR OUR PLANET, WITH ADVERSE EFFECTS ON BOTH BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN HEALTH.

### WHY IS URGENT ACTION NEEDED ?

Plastic has invaded our everyday life with an extremely worrying impact on the whole ecosystem. Nearly indestructible, plastic pollutes the seas in a visible way but also in the form of microbeads and nanoparticles. It is ingested by marine fauna and alters the quality of sea water, generating oxygen depletion.

Facing this alarming fact, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Tara Expeditions Foundation, Surfrider Foundation Europe, Mava Foundation and the IUCN joined together to form BeMed Task Force. Its mission: Acting at the source to fight efficiently and sustainably against plastic pollution.

### BEMED'S ANSWER

- Influencing political, legislative and regulatory decisions aiming at fighting against plastic pollution.
- Studying the repercussions and interactions with the marine ecosystem to better understand the plastic issue.
- Researching plastic wastes origins to stop the influx in the sea at different levels.
- Launching calls for micro-initiatives to support innovative solutions and mobilize the civil society.
- Developing a Mediterranean network of actors engaged against plastic pollution.

### SOME FACTS ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTIONS

- 6.4 million tons of plastic litter is thrown into the ocean every year
- 1 million birds and 100 000 marine mammals are killed every year from plastic waste
- Between 60 and 90% of marine litter is composed of plastic
- 1 second to produce a plastic bag, 20 minutes of use for 500 years of pollution
- From 956 to 42826 pieces of plastic debris per km<sup>2</sup>
- 250 billion micro-plastics in the Mediterranean Sea, making it the most polluted sea in the world.

## RAMOGE Agreement launches summer “Je navigue je trie” campaign

On Tuesday 11 July 2017, the RAMOGE Agreement launched its second summer “Je navigue je trie” (“I sail, I recycle”) campaign, which this year will raise awareness among sailors at the Port of Fontvieille and Port Hercule.

The aim of the campaign, which is being run in conjunction with the Department of Urban Amenities, the Société d’Exploitation des Ports de Monaco (SEPM), the Yacht Club de Monaco and Gestes Propres, is to reduce litter at sea by handing out refuse collection bags to sailors.

At the request of the Prince’s Government, the bags handed out will no longer be made of recycled plastic but instead of a biodegradable material, thus meeting the Principality’s environmental requirements. The harbour master’s offices at Fontvieille and Port Hercule, and the Yacht Club marina will issue two refuse collection bags: one for waste which can be sorted and another for non-recyclable rubbish.

The initiative aims to encourage everyone to respect the marine environment, and also meets the commitments made by Monaco’s ports as part of the Clean Ports certification.

“Je navigue je trie” is a simple gesture to help preserve our marine heritage!



## A propos



### European Commission

The European Commission is the EU's executive arm. It takes decisions on the Union's political and strategic direction. It promotes the general interest of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation as well as by implementing policies and the EU budget.



### CONFERENCE « OUR OCEAN » - Malta, 5-6 October 2017

The European Union will host the fourth high-level Our Ocean conference in Malta on 5 and 6 October 2017. In the spirit of the successful 2014, 2015 and 2016 editions, the conference aims to inspire and empower a new generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists and civil society to identify solutions and commit to actions for safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans.

It follows on from the previous conferences and complements the EU's Ocean Governance Initiative, which sets out an agenda for ensuring the future of the oceans around the world. Nearly 1000 participants are expected at this visually engaging and interactive 2-day event, including heads of state and government; foreign, economy, environment and fisheries ministers; and other established and up-and-coming ocean leaders in government, business, finance, science and civil society. Young and cutting-edge innovators and entrepreneurs are to share the stage with well-known and dynamic global leaders in ocean conservation.

[www.ourocean2017.org](http://www.ourocean2017.org)





United Nations  
Environment Programme

## UN Environment

UN Environment is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UN Environment works with governments, the private sector, the civil society and with other UN entities and international organizations across the world.

UN Environment launched the CleanSeas campaign in February 2017 with the aim of engaging governments, the public, civil society and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic litter. The campaign seeks to address the root causes of the problem through a five-year strategy that includes educating and engaging, establishing partnerships and replicating and scaling up efforts around the world. CleanSeas' key assets are its ability to convene Member States and work with them to implement concrete initiatives, its global reach through the UN network, and a unified call to action that can support national movements to influence change.

For more information see: [www.cleanses.org](http://www.cleanses.org)





Oceanographic Museum – Seaside © Michel Dagnino

Opening times:  
July – August : 9.30 am – 8 pm  
September : 10 am – 7 pm  
October : 10 am – 6 pm

## Oceanographic Museum of Monaco

Built on the side of the mythical Rock of Monaco, the Oceanographic Museum has been watching over the oceans for over a century. Founded by the Prince Albert I, great grandfather of H.S.H. Prince Albert II, it was designed as a Palace entirely dedicated to Art and Science.

From the ornamental facades to the adornments in the salons, everything in the Museum's architecture evokes the marine world. Since its inauguration on 29 March 1910 and with more than 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> open to the public, this Temple of the Sea has positioned itself as an international point of reference. Crowned 85 meters above the sea, it is an invitation to a wonderful dive and discovery of more than 6000 specimens; a place of exchange and culture, which confronts experiences concerning the protection of the oceans, the common heritage of mankind.

From the aquariums to the collections of Natural History, including the Shark Lagoon and the Turtle's Island situated on the panoramic terrace, the Museum offers to visitors a unique learning experience to know, love and protect the oceans.

Faithful to the vision of its Founder «to gather together in a common eclat the two driving forces of civilization: Art and Science», the Oceanographic Museum opens its doors to contemporary art and hosts major exhibitions by renown international artists like Damien Hirst, Huang Yong Ping, Mark Dion , Marc Quinn or more recently with Philippe Pasqua and his exhibition “Borderline”.

An extraordinary monumental jewel conceived by a visionary Prince, the Temple of the Sea is today a key element of the Monegasque identity. With more than 665,000 visitors in 2015, the Museum is one of the esteemed attractions of the Principality also engaged in the scientific, economic and touristic arena.



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# Oceanographic Institute, Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco

The Oceanographic Institute is committed to enhancing the knowledge of the richness and fragility of the oceans, and promoting their sustainable management and rational and efficient protection. To achieve this, the Institute ensures the mediation between scientific and socio-economic actors on the one hand, and the public and decision-makers on the other hand.

The oceanographic Institute upholds and shares its mission following the wish of **its founder Prince Albert I of Monaco: « knowing, loving and protecting the oceans »**.

## KNOWING

- Promote advanced knowledge of the oceans to ensure the scientific grounds for responsible political action;
- Develop a network of partnerships allowing the mobilization of the most recent knowledge;
- Popularize and share scientific knowledge to make it accessible to the greatest number of people, and match scientific results with public need;
- Put forward the essential role of the oceans and marine biodiversity for our environment and raise awareness on the dangers threatening them, all the while identifying solutions;
- Develop a global vision of the issues, uniting their environmental, economic and social aspects;
- Communicate through various means covering all types of public: the oceanographic Institute in Paris and the oceanographic Museum of Monaco for expert meetings, public conferences, exhibitions; from paper editions to numeric aids and online documentation.

## LOVING

- Move the public with the beauty of marine life;
- Put on show an original and fascinating association of the Living, Science and Art, blended together since the creation of the Institutions in Paris and Monaco;
- Entertain the public through a modern and fun approach to the world of the oceans;
- Put forward the exceptional heritage of the scholar Prince Albert I and the exemplary commitment of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

## PROTECTING

- Work with the political decision-makers, international institutions and opinion leaders to accelerate decisions and actions towards the protection of the oceans;
- Identify and promote balanced and realistic solutions;
- Advise political decisions based on scientific analysis integrating the environmental, economic, social and judicial aspects;
- Catalyze innovations, encourage initiatives and share good practice for the protection of the oceans;
- Raise public awareness and point out their ability to take action;
- Mobilize and favour the commitment and positive actions of the general public encouraging “good practices”.



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## Press contacts

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