

An underwater photograph showing various pieces of marine litter floating in clear blue water. The litter includes a large, crumpled white plastic bag, a green cylindrical can, a red rectangular object, a black plastic cap, and several pieces of clear and yellowish plastic. The background is filled with small, brownish particles of organic matter.

marine litter

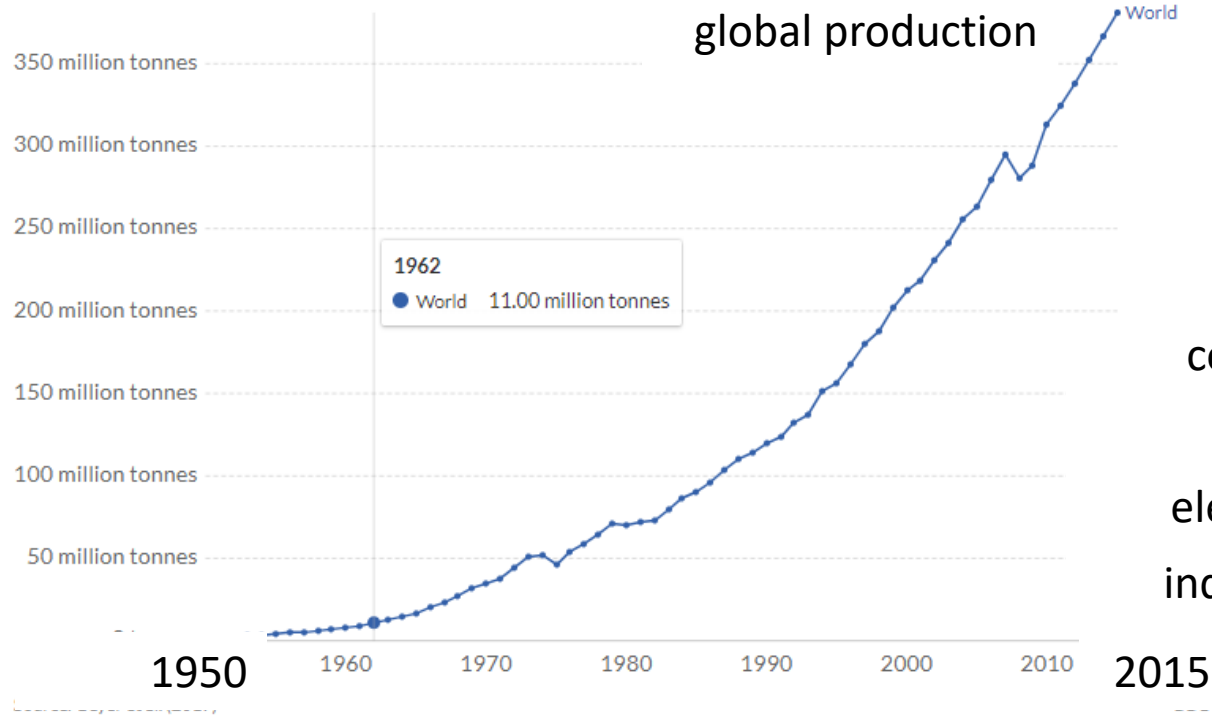
Andreea Strachinescu
Head of Unit – DG MARE
European Commission
Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

where does it come from?

Global plastics production

Annual global polymer resin and fiber production (plastic production), measured in metric tonnes per year.

Our World
in Data

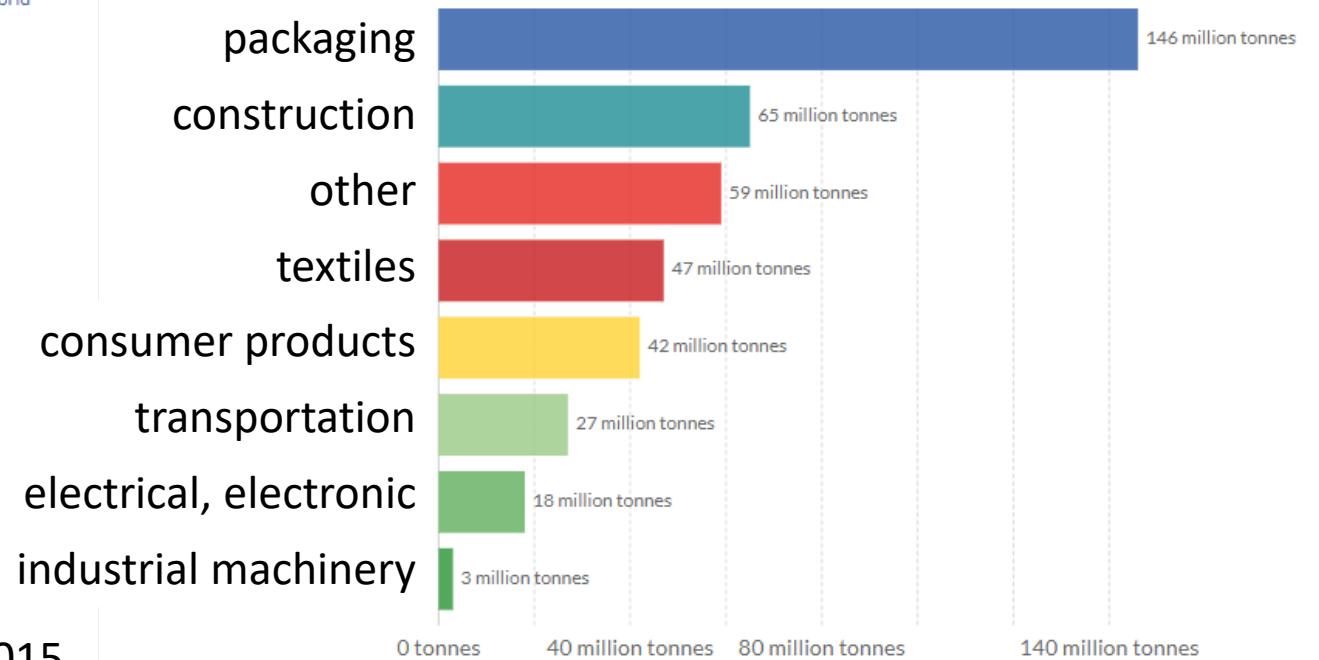


1950 2015 CHART DATA SOURCES

Primary plastic production by industrial sector, 2015

Primary global plastic production by industrial sector allocation, measured in tonnes per year.

Our World
in Data



Source: Geyer et al. (2017)

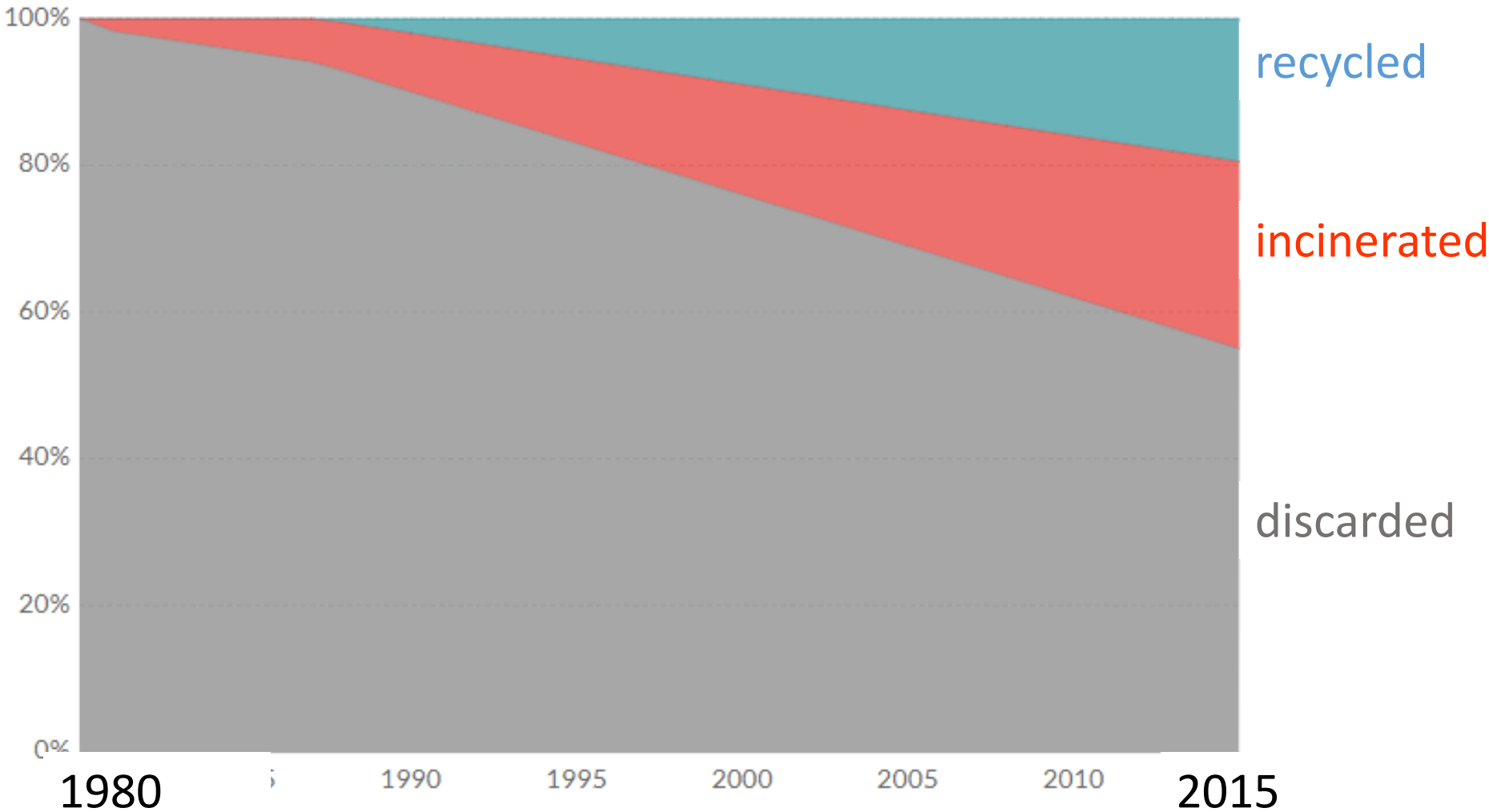
CC BY

CHART DATA SOURCES

where does it finish up?

Global plastic waste by disposal

Estimated share of global plastic waste by disposal method.



Source: [OECD et al. \(2017\)](#)

CC BY

CHART

DATA

SOURCES



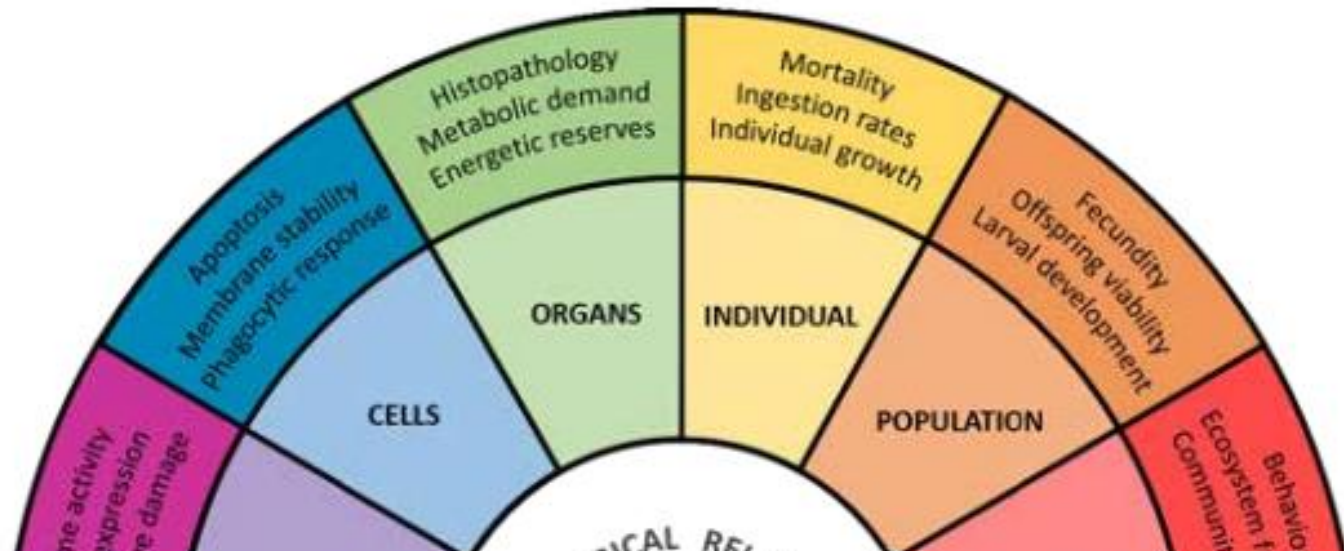


harm from plastics



Measures should aim to:

- limit the unnecessary use of plastic;
- restrict the intentional use of microplastics;
- prevent or attenuate microplastic formation over the life-cycle of plastics and plastic-containing products;
- avoid release into the environment as near to source as possible;
- mitigate and control at key points in pathways from source to sink



- land

- single-use plastics

- single Use Plastics Directive EU will reduce harm from single use plastics (bans, substitutions, targets)

- microplastics

- some bans on microbeads in cosmetics
 - Commission Scientific Advice Mechanism highlights uncertainty
 - fibres from washing synthetic material
 - tyre wear
 - paint

- sea

- fishing

- producer will pay for collection, treatment and processing
 - port fees independent of quantity of litter deposited (including fished-up litter)
 - better reporting and retrieval of lost gear
 - structural funds can support port improvements

- lost containers

- ?



progress but still
considerable
uncertainty

- how many are lost?
- is it a problem?
- what are we doing to prevent it?
- how do we respond to incidents?
- what more could we do?

lost containers



Today's agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- State of play
- Round-table discussions
- Wrap-up

