

PLAST4H2 CLEAN-UPS PROTOCOL



CLEAN-UP PROTOCOL

The following protocol has been designed by Innoceana to ensure efficient clean-ups and to collect relevant data for the **PLAST4H2** project. Its implementation aims to facilitate the collection, characterisation, and management of marine debris on beaches, underwater, and offshore areas. The protocols for garbage collection and characterisation have been based on the monitoring of marine litter on beaches in the OSPAR Maritime Area and guidelines provided by the Spanish Government.

Phase I: Organization

Special emphasis is placed on gathering pre-activity information about the environmental characteristics and available services at the location. This will not only allow for more effective organization of the clean-up but also help identify any unique circumstances at each location

Phase II: Clean-up

During this phase, the actual clean-up takes place, with collected objects being logged and weighed. Proper management of the collected debris is ensured, with final disposal in accordance with safety and environmental protection standards.

Once the object collection in the clean-up area is complete, the items will be taken to a pre-arranged meeting point for sorting and weighing the different waste fractions. The weights will be recorded on the corresponding form.

It is important to mention that certain photographs must be taken during the activity to allow for project dissemination, awareness raising, and justification of tasks performed. These photos include:

- a group picture of all participants with the collected waste
- a picture of the waste separated into categories
- a picture of plastic weight
- a picture of the collection process.

Beach Clean-up

To maximize clean-up efforts, it is recommended for volunteers to be divided into small groups of two or three people, equipped with gloves and bags. Parallel routes along the tidal line will be established within the designated clean-up area, with a maximum separation of 1.5–2 meters between each line to ensure the registration and collection of all objects, including the smallest ones (*Annex 1*).

The necessary materials for this activity include:

- Plastic bags
- Gloves
- Tarp
- Scale
- Knives
- Waste collection form
- Participant registration form
- First aid kit
- Sieves (for microplastic clean-ups)
- Camera to document the activity

Underwater Clean-up

For underwater clean-ups, safety regulations for diving will always be strictly adhered to, prioritizing the safety of all participants above everything else. Volunteers participating in these clean-ups must demonstrate agility in aquatic environments and dive experience, as handling cleaning equipment adds to the complexity of diving. During dives, efforts will be made to cover the maximum surface area while maintaining a safe distance between divers, adjusted according to the environmental conditions of the dive.

The necessary materials for this activity include:

- Diving equipment
- Underwater camera to document the activity
- Cork to safely dispose of fishing hooks

- Mesh bags
- Anti-cut gloves
- Tarp
- Scale
- Knives
- Waste collection form
- Participant registration form
- First aid kit

Offshore Clean-up

Offshore clean-ups will be conducted using various types of vessels, where the designated cleaner will visually scan the entire route for floating debris to be collected. Any trash seen or animals identified will be categorised according to their corresponding codes found in Annex 2. During these clean-ups, sampling efforts including distance travelled will be documented through GPS tracking, recording the path taken by the vessel, and marking waypoints for both debris and marine fauna.

The necessary materials for this activity include:

- Stick, net and hook
- GPS
- Bags
- Binoculars
- Anti-cut gloves
- Waste collection form
- Camera to document the activity

Phase III: Waste Characterisation

After completing the clean-up, waste separation and characterisation will occur. Debris encountered will be sorted into the various categories outlined in the waste registration form (*Annex 3*). Following separation, a photograph of the sorted debris will be taken, and the quantity of objects in each category will be counted.

The weight of each major waste category will then be measured (plastic, metal, glass, paper, hygienic and medical waste, wood, miscellaneous), with a photograph of the scale taken specifically for the plastic fraction.

Phase IV: Waste Management

The waste will then be transported to the nearest waste collection point ("*punto limpio*"). It is important to contact the waste collection point in advance to ensure they provide waste reception certificates, which will serve as proof of the materials collected.

Phase V: Submission of Collected Data

Waste collection data will be entered into an online document and corresponding photographs will be uploaded. Afterwards, the clean-up will be registered on the Innoceana calendar, and an official report will be created.

Annex 1

Beach clean-up routes.



Annex 2

Trash and animal codes for offshore clean-up.

Type of material	Code
Plastic	Pls
Metal	Met
Paper	Ppr
Hygienic waste	Hyg
Medical waste	Med
Wood	Wo
Glass	Gls
Variety	Vrt

Specie	Code
Bottlenose dolphin	Ttr
Pilot whale	Gma
Spotted dolphin	Sfr
Commom dolphin	Dde
bryde`s whale	Bed
Loggerhead turtle	Cca

Annex 3

Waste registration form.

DATA RECORD

ID	PLASTIC :	(Kg)	QTY
1	PLASTIC BOTTLE		
2	BOTTLE CAPS AND RINGS		
3	STRAWES, GLASSES, PLATES, MUGS, CUPS and CUTLERY		
4	OTHER PLASTIC BOTTLES(<20L)		
5	LARGE DRUMS (>20L)		
6	COSMETIC PACKAGING		
7	PLASTIC BAGS		
8	OTHER PLASTIC BAGS AND SACK		
9	CANDY WRAPPERS AND STICKS		
10	FOOD CONTAINERS (yogurts, takeaways...)		
11	IRRIGATION PIPES		
12	POLYSTYRENE SEEDBEDS		
13	GREENHOUSE PLASTICS		
14	OTHER AGRICULTURE OBJECTS		
15	COPEES, ROPES AND TWINE		
16	NETS AND TRAPS		
17	LUMINOUS FISHING TUBES		
18	LINES		
19	BUOYS AND FLOATS		
20	TANGLES (of nets, ropes, fishing lines...)		
21	FISH BOXES		
22	AQUACULTURE OBJECTS		
23	PACKAGING TAPES (straps, zip ties...)		
24	INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING		
26	UNIDENTIFIABLE PLASTIC FRAGMENTS < 2.5cm		
27	UNIDENTIFIABLE PLASTIC FRAGMENTS > 2.5 cm		

ID	METAL :	(Kg)	QTY
28	DRINK CANS AND THEIR HANDLES		
29	CAPS		
30	METALLIC FOOD CONTAINERS		
31	ALUMINUM FOIL		
32	ELECTRICAL / ELECTRONIC DEVICES		
33	HOOKS AND SINKERS (for fishing)		
34	CANS AND AEROSOLS OF PAINT OR LUBRICANTS		
36	NON-IDENTIFIABLE/OTHERS		

ID	PAPER / CARDBOARD :	(Kg)	QTY
37	CIGARETTE BUTTS		
38	TOBACCO PACKAGES		
39	BRICKS (milk, juices...)		
40	CARDBOARD		
41	PAPER NAPKINS		
42	NON-IDENTIFIABLE/ OTHERS		

ID	HYGIENIC WASTE :	(Kg)	QTY
43	EAR STICKS		
44	CONDOMS AND THEIR PACKAGING		
45	PADS AND TAMPONS		
46	WET WIPES		
47	NON-IDENTIFIABLE/ OTHERS		

ID	MEDICAL WASTE :	(Kg)	QTY
48	MEDICINE CONTAINERS AND TUBES		
49	SYRINGES		
50	NON-IDENTIFIABLE/OTHERS		

ID	WOOD :	(Kg)	QTY
51	PALLETS		
52	ICE CREAM STICKS		
53	NON-IDENTIFIABLE/OTHERS		

ID	GLASS / CERAMIC :	(Kg)	QTY
54	GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS		
55	GLASS FRAGMENTS		
56	BULBS, FLUORESCENT...		
63	CERAMIC		
57	NON-IDENTIFIABLE/OTHERS		

ID	VARIETY :	(Kg)	QTY
57	BALLOONS		
58	RUBBER		
59	TIRES		
60	CLOTHING, CAPS AND FOOTWEAR		
62	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS		
63	TAR BALLS		
61	NON-IDENTIFIABLE/OTHERS		

ACTIVITY LOCATION

MUNICIPALITY

COORDINATES

DATE

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS LENGTH SAMPLED

