DEFINING GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

The interrelations between the marine environment and human activities in Montenegro

> Human activities on the coast have a profound impact on the sea and its habitats, resulting in changes to the quality of waters and sea-related activities.

Nearshores activities, such as shipyards and ports, can lead to the release of **contaminants** (EO9), which may have toxicological effects on biodiversity (EO1).

Coastal urbanisation (EO8) is linked to **loss of habitats** and local species (EO1). Coastal urban areas are also a source of **nutrient enrichment and pollution** (EO5, EO9, EO10).
In Montenegro, at least 32.51% of the total coastline is urbanised.

Tourist areas produce **marine litter** (EO10), but are also affected by it. In 2019, 2.3 million tourists visited Montenegro, and most of them were beach goers.

Marine turtles, marine mammals and sea birds (EO1) can get entangled in the discarded **fishing gear**, or suffocate through ingesting plastic (EO10).
In Montenegro, waste leakage in the sea amounts to 2,146 tons every year.

Litter (EO10) floating on the surface can act as a carrier of **non-indigenous species** (EO2), which are also favored by warming waters (EO7).

Pollution (EO5, EO9), **coastal urbanization** (EO8) and other human activities have a local effect on **water movements** and **temperatures** (EO7), which in turn affect the spread of litter (EO10), increase of thermophilic species, as well as the health of habitats and their species composition (EO1, EO4).
In the last 40 years, sea temperatures in Montenegro have increased between 1.28°C (Ulcinj) and 1.44°C (Boka Kotorska).

Commercially harvested fish and shellfish (EO3) may ingest **marine litter** (EO10).
In Montenegro, 25.9% of fish samples showed the presence of litter in their gastrointestinal tracts.

Euthrophication (EO5) can lead to harmful algal bloom in semi enclosed water bodies, like Boka Kotorska Bay, affecting biodiversity (EO1, EO4).

Oxygen depletion can impact habitats (EO1) and related food webs (EO4)

Marine litter (EO10) may cause physical damage to **fragile benthic habitats** (EO1), like corals in Boka Kotorska.
The estimated amount of sea floor litter in Boka Kotorska is 13,500 items/km^2.

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