



*Association for the Protection of
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Sources Of Pollution in Georgia

Project title: “Leave your Environmentalist Spirit Online for the Black Sea Basin” - Spirit BSB online

The project consortium consists of 4 partners:

LP Coordinator - *Association for the Protection of Human Being and Environment for a Sustainable Development in the World-ECOM, Romania*

P1- *Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey*

P2-*Chamber of Agriculture of Trabzon, Turkey*

P3-*International Center for Social Research and Policy Analysis in Tbilisi, Georgia.*

According to the Project Implementation Plan, within the activity *T2.1 Development of “Pollution and solutions in BSB - Manual for everyone”* we made a manual. This manual contains several topics. Through these newsletters we present these topics. Today we choose to present you:

Sources Of Pollution in Georgia

- Pollution from Agricultural, Domestic and Industrial Sources- The eutrophication phenomenon or the over-fertilization of the sea by compounds of nitrogen and phosphorus (also called nutrients)
- Chemical pollution- Oil enters the marine environment as a result of operational or accidental discharges from vessels, as well as through insufficiently treated wastewaters from land based sources.
- Wastewaters-discharge of insufficiently treated sewage waters, which results in microbiological contamination and poses a threat to public health
- Solid Waste, dumped into the sea from ships and some coastal towns. Any floating or semi-submerged waste inevitably ends on the seashore. Therefore the Black Sea beaches tend to accumulate a lot of garbage, which is unsightly and presents a risk to the health of humans and marine species.
- Marine Litter- On Black Sea beaches, the most common types of litter are cigarette butts, bottle caps, and packaging from chips or other snack foods.

Flowing from rivers into the Black Sea, the most common pollutants are bottles, packaging, and plastic bags, among other pieces of unidentifiable plastics. Microplastics, at less than 5 mm, are also a significant problem and have dramatic consequences, particularly when ingested by marine life such as dolphins, fish, shellfish,

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and plankton.

The main source of pollution of Georgian coastal waters is untreated waste waters discharged into the sea. The quality of waters at recreational beaches generally meets the required bathing water standards, although there are some exceptions. The construction and rehabilitation of sewerage systems and waste water treatment plants is underway along the entire coastal line of Georgia. These works will significantly decrease the pollution of the Georgian marine coastal waters. The discharge of untreated urban wastewater and marine littering by municipal waste are the main challenges to coastal waters of the Black Sea in Georgia and urban pollution has been intensifying with the increase of tourism activity in this region. Based on data obtained through the intensive seasonal monitoring of the coastal waters, the Sarfi-Kvariati and Gonio areas are of the best quality, while high a concentration of E.coli has been observed in places where untreated urban wastewater discharges into the Black Sea. The worst situation has been recorded at the Bartskhana River estuary where the concentration of E. coli was more than 24, 000/litre when the allowable standard is 10, 000/litre. To reduce untreated wastewater discharge in the sea, the Batumi (Adlia) WWTP was constructed and two others are under construction in Ureki and Kobuleti as mentioned above.

Marine littering with municipal waste is another problem for coastal waters. The uncontrolled dumping of municipal waste in the tributary river beds or the adjacent coastal areas, causes the littering of the beach and coastal waters. In turn, this poses risks to the environment, marine life, human health, and negatively affects tourism development.

The discharge of wastewater and municipal waste contributes to the enrichment of the Black Sea with nutrients and consequently, to the eutrophication process, which is the largest challenge for the Black Sea in general. Signs of eutrophication have already been observed in the coastal zone of Georgia too. Another risk to the Black Sea is its pollution with oil and oil products in the ports of Georgia. An especially high level of pollution is observed along the shipping routes (about 0.3 mg/l) and most likely this is a result of the release of ballast waters from ships. Only a few terminals (for example Batumi oil terminal) are equipped with the type of special infrastructure for accepting and treatment of ballast waters. In 2014, Georgia joined the International Convention on Control and Management of Ballistic Water and Sewer, which created a legal basis for ballast waters management.

For more informations please visit our website <https://www.spiritbsb.online/>.

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