



**The BSSSC Annual Conference in Klaipeda, 18.-20.9.2019**  
**Session 3 - Marine litter: towards a cleaner Baltic Sea**  
**19 September, 14.00-15.30**

**Description:**

Marine litter is a clearly visible problem along the Baltic Sea coastline, and microlitter – although often invisible – is of equal concern. No matter its shape and size, marine litter upsets the sea's biota and human connection to the sea. During the recent years, the issue of marine litter, and especially plastics, has been gaining global attention as one of the most emerging environmental issues of our times. Every year, large quantities of plastics – including microplastics – end up in the oceans and seas due to human activity, causing serious environmental, social and economic impacts.

Rapid growth of the plastics production during the past 50 years together with often lacking waste management solutions as well as our throw-away culture and irresponsible behaviour bring extra challenge to the problem. Hence, global, regional, national and local level cooperation is needed to overcome the marine litter challenge. This session will present the current situation and the different approaches to the marine litter issue from global to municipal levels, and address policy options and measures for a cleaner Baltic Sea.

**Program:**

The interactive event will consist of the following elements:

Introduction (12 min)

- **Aaron Vuola**, HELCOM Project coordinator ([FanLesstic-sea](#)): Setting the scene, global considerations on marine litter, and introduction of the agenda and participants

Presentations (48 min)

- **Marta Ruiz**, Associate Professional Secretary, HELCOM  
Regional and HELCOM perspective on marine litter: The State of the Baltic Sea and the Marine Litter Regional Action Plan
- **Arūnas Balčiūnas** PhD, Marine Research Institute, Klaipeda University  
Science/Research perspective on marine litter: Scale, origin and spatial distribution of marine litter pollution in the Lithuanian coastal zone of the Baltic Sea
- **Daiva Jonuskiene**, Siauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts  
Local government perspective on marine litter: The current situation and planned activities in the Siauliai region municipality
- **Susanne Altvater**: s.Pro, Consultant for marine and legal issues  
Private sector perspective on marine litter: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Directive for Single-use plastics

Panel discussion (30 min)

- Panel discussion: four panellists (four speakers, moderated by Aaron Vuola)
- Q&A with audience