JPI OCEANS

EPHEMARE

ECOTOXICOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF MICROPLASTICS IN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

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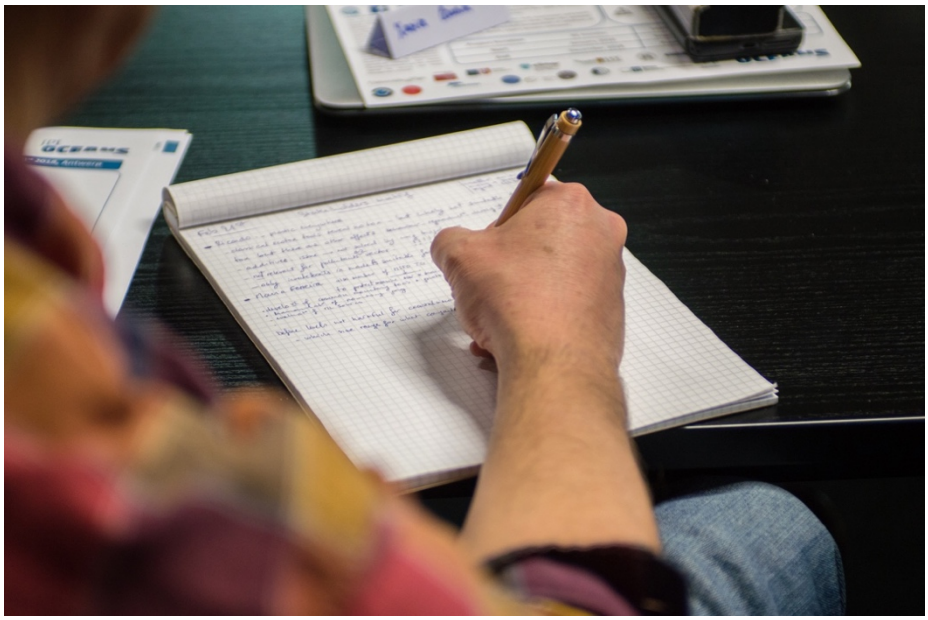
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM EPHEMARE!



Happy Holidays from us to you!

As the final year of the EPHEMARE project, 2018 proved to be a busy and productive year with fruitful results on a range of project initiatives. This newsletter provides a snapshot of our activities over 2018, from oureach to research to stakeholder workshops.

Wrapping up the EPHEMARE project will be bittersweet as we take time to reflect upon all the work achieved together over the past 3 years. We'd like to thank you for following along, and if you find yourself wanting more information about what EPHEMARE has accomplished and questions we have for the future, we've got you covered: simply visit our website or connect with us on social media via the links to the left.

We wish you a wonderful 2019!

The EPHEMARE Team

WORKSHOPS

OVERVIEW OF 2018 ACTIVITIES

Ephemare partners held a number of workshops & meetings in 2018, all geared at raising awareness about project deliverables and their relation to combating the problem of microplastics in the marine environment.

Ephemare Stakeholder Workshop

Ephemare hosted a stakeholder workshop in February at the University of Antwerp with attendees from research, policy, industry, and regulatory backgrounds. The workshop was designed to facilitate knowledge exchange between stakeholders, while collectively working towards identifying future research areas and potential solutions to the negative impacts of microplastics.

The workshop included a series of presentations by experts in the microplastics field, followed by group work on solutions to microplastic problems and a vote on which solutions were the most effective and most implementable. The workshop concluded with an expert-led panel discussion and was a resounding success, and surveys conducted before and after the workshop showing project information was successfully disseminated.

La Festa del Mare

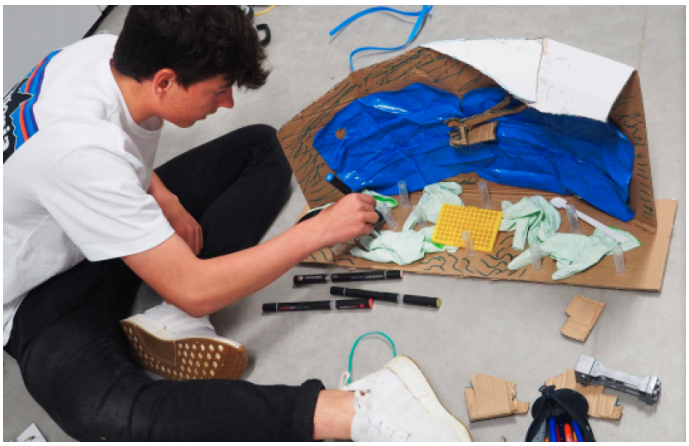
EPHEMARE researchers from CNR-ISMAR attended La Festa del Mare in Rapallo, Italy from 8-11 August, 2018 with an educational laboratory on the life cycle of plastic. The workshop highlighted ways to re-use and recycle plastic, while promoting responsible use.

EuroMarine Foresight Workshop

EPHEMARE researchers attended and presented at the EuroMarine Foresight Workshop in April on Modelling Ocean Plastics Litter in a Changing Climate: Challenges and Mitigations. The workshop provided a forum of debate regarding the issue of plastic pollution, with discussion on challenges and solutions being developed by scientists to help predict the effects of plastics in marine ecosystems.

Microplastics & Medusae

EPHEMARE researchers Jerome Cachot and Xavier Cousin joined artist Roman Kroke to host a student workshop titled "Microplastics and Medusae: expeditions into H_2O." The workshop connected students with knowledge about plastic pollution, and students were encouraged to take an active and creative role in the creation of experimental repurposed plastics.



A student creates art from plastic at “Microplastics & Medusae”.

CONFERENCES & TALKS

Between hosting workshops, doing research in the lab, and conducting outreach activities, time is scarce for EPHEMARE researchers. However, partners still found the time to showcase their hard work at conferences over the year. Here's a small selection of the many conferences attended over the course of this year.

Polymères & Océans 2018

Ephemare researchers delivered two presentations on the results of lab research at PO2018 over 14-17 January. They discussed both microplastic toxicity on the early stage development of the medaka, a model fish; as well as the toxic effects of industrial primary microplastics spiked with model pollutants on zebrafish.

Plastic Pollution in Our Oceans Talks

Partners from the University of Antwerp were invited to speak and join the panel at a series of talks at the Brussels Royal Museum for Natural Sciences. After the presentations, there was a lively discussion with the audience; in this instance the public seemed particularly interested in policy, from what citizens can do to influence their representatives, to lobbying from plastic companies, to EU policy and member state implementation.

SEARICA Mission Ocean

Ephemare researchers attended the SEARICA conference at the European Parliament to discuss the theme of "Science and Innovation for a Healthy Ocean." The conference focused on the issue of marine plastic pollution.

PolyTalk2018

PolyTalk acts as a forum for Plastics Europe to engage with stakeholders in dialogue about preventing marine litter around the world. Ephemare was present in a panel discussion on 'Improving resource efficiency and accelerating innovation to increase circularity - research and innovation' and engaged with Mr. Karmenu Vella, the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, who outlined future European strategies to combat marine litter.

ECOBIM & SETAC

In May, Ephemare researchers presented their research in several talks at both ECOBIM2018 in Talence and SETAC Europe's 28th Annual Meeting in Rome.

Made of Plastic

Ephemare researchers helped organise a conference on World Environment Day called "Made of Plastic." The accompanying event aimed to attract people to the problem of plastic pollution and included talks from several project partners.

MICRO2018

The year of conferences came to a close at MICRO2018, where our hard-working researchers gave a grand total of eight presentations on project results over the course of the week.

In 2018, Ephemare contributed to:

16+	CONFERENCES
8+	WORKSHOPS
14+	PUBLICATIONS
15+	OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Ocean Plastics Lab

Ephemare contributed a series of images from the IMPACT2017 photo competition to the Ocean Plastics Lab, which exhibited in front of the European Parliament from 9-19 April, 2018. Our researchers not only had the chance to visit and explore the hands-on educational lab, but directly engage with public visitors on the problem of plastics in the ocean.

UNESCO World Oceans Day

UNESCO, the IOC, and the Surfrider Foundation organised a stellar event for World Oceans Day on 8 June. Over 200 students attended this conference on marine litter and microplastics. EPHEMARE representative Camilla Carteny gave a presentation to middle and high-schoolers demonstrating what microplastics are and how they can affect the marine environment.

Calblanque Regional Park ....of Plastics?

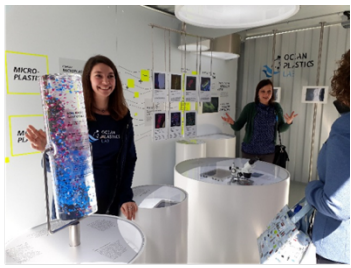
EPHEMARE researchers at the Spanish Oceanographic Institute spoke to locals about the problem of plastics in the Calblanque Regional Park on 30 June, 2018. After the presentation, a practical session was held at the beach on the collection and analysis of plastics found in the sand.

Care for Some Ephemarinaras?

Members of the Ephemare team delivered a round of fun and charming "gastro-scientific" presentations for The Oceanographic Center of Murcia's Friday 'tapas' series, which were designed to disseminate current research to science and beer lovers.

Ephemare On TV & In Print

Ephemare was featured in the regional newspaper La Verdad on January 23, where our scientists spoke about metal pollution in the Mediterranean and their research on the role of microplastics as heavy metal transporters. In April, an Ephemare team member spoke on a local Spanish TV programme about on how plastics are affecting marine fauna.



Top: researchers show the public how to collect and analyse microplastics. Bottom: the Ocean Plastics Lab.

Final Project Meeting in Lanzarote, Spain 19 Nov 2018

To unpack a year's worth of results, EPHEMARE project partners met in November for the final time in beautiful Lanzarote, Spain. The meeting took place just before the JPI Oceans final microplastics conference and concurrently with the MICRO2018 International Conference on the Fate and Impacts of Microplastics: Knowledge, Actions and Solutions. Presenters from each work package discussed the results of their 2018 research, including project milestones and deliverables. The meeting was a valuable opportunity for cross-work package discussion on project findings and accomplishments.

Above: Project partners discuss the latest project activities in Lanzarote, Spain.

Final Meeting of JPI Oceans Microplastic Projects 20 Nov 2018

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. Following Ephemare's project meeting, JPI Oceans' four microplastic projects met for the final time to discuss their work. Researchers from EPHEMARE, Plastox, Weather-Mic, and BASEMAN presented their hard-earned findings from the past three years, sharing both challenges and successes. There were some fascinating topics discussed with plenty of questions for future research, from nanoplastics to microplastic classification. To find out more, check out our Twitter feed, where we live-blogged each presentation @ephemare_.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

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2018 JPIO Joint Call

On 20 November, JPI Oceans presented their 2018 Joint Call for Proposals on Microplastics in the Marine Environment. The opportunity composes 9.2M in funding for research projects focusing on the sources, distribution, and impact of microplastics in the marine environment and includes reference to nanoplastics – a frequently mentioned topic over the course of the week. EPHEMARE researchers are delighted to see that microplastics and nanoplastics have remained global research priorities and will be examining opportunities for future research.

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