

These measures are retrieving gear and other plastic lost in previous years and therefore reducing the total mass in the sea *but not the annual inflow*.

6.3.1.3. Fisheries Control

Two measures under consideration for simplifying the Common Fisheries Policy and improving its implementation through the Fisheries Control Regulation will address the issue of entry of fishing gear into the sea.

Table 15. Fisheries control

Measure	Cost to fishermen	Benefit
Use of electronic logbook for reporting lost gear	Negligible marginal cost because introduced at the same time as other modifications to logbook	More accurate reporting and improved effectiveness of recovery operations. Efficiency of these operations varies considerably. A 20% increase in efficiency would add 350 tonnes per year to operations funded under EMFF and a similar amount to the amount recovered in option 3c
Removal of the current derogation applicable to vessels < 12m to carry on board the necessary equipment for the retrieval of lost gear.	€50 million, half the 50,000 vessels in the EU fleet under 12 metres need to spend around €2,000 on winches	Recovery of gear that otherwise would have been abandoned may become possible. There is no information on how much is being retrieved at present (see section 2.2.2).

6.3.1.4. Revision of Port Reception Facilities Directive

The proposed revision of the Port Reception Facilities Directive will turn a number of operations currently financed under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund into "business as usual".

Table 16. Port Reception facilities

Measure	Cost	Benefit in terms of reduction of annual inflow of fishing gear	Benefit in terms of fishing gear and other plastic lost in previous years
100% indirect fee, so no additional financial cost for bringing waste, including passively fished waste, ashore* * There may be additional costs in the case of smaller, particularly fishing ports which will now need facilities and may need to raise ports fees to pay for them.	-€2,000.000 because the expenditure under OSPAR, KIMO and EMFF schemes to collect, monitor and count litter brought ashore would no longer be necessary or targeted differently.	Equivalent to 2,700 tonnes year (see annex 7)	Equivalent to 2,700 tonnes year (see annex 7)

Measure	Cost	Benefit in terms of reduction of annual inflow of fishing gear	Benefit in terms of fishing gear and other plastic lost in previous years
Member States have to ensure that adequate PRF are available in their fishing ports to deal with this waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy (this includes separate collection of the waste delivered)		Impact assessment for Port Reception Facilities ⁹⁵ indicates little change in litter brought ashore; although interviews with fishers indicate that current poor facilities may be a disincentive	
Inspection targets for vessels greater than 100 GT and reporting of the advance waste notification made obligatory for fishing vessels longer than 45 metres.		Limited (80% of the EU fishing fleet is below 100GT and/or 45m)	

The reduced environmental impact of approximately 5,500 tonnes per year⁹⁶ translates to between €6 million and €20 million in economic benefit for fishing, port and tourism industries. Additional costs such as the possible increase in port fees due to implementation of the PRF Directive are difficult to estimate at this point, but would be borne by the sector in the absence of any additional and/or burden sharing mechanism.

6.3.1.5. Member States Programmes of Measures under the MSFD

Table 17. Member State measures

Measure	Cost	Benefit
Programmes of measures to achieve GES by 2020, including a reduction of lost fishing gear found at sea	Zero. These measures are already included under other options	Better monitoring of marine litter

6.3.1.6. FAO Guidelines

Table 18. FAO Guidelines

Measure	Cost	Benefit
Authorities should introduce or marking of gear, a register of gear by the authorities and sharing of information between authorities	Zero. Implementation would already be covered by the Control Regulation and its proposed revision	Zero over and above what is already being done

⁹⁵ SWD/2018/021 final

⁹⁶ This includes plastic that does not derive from fishing (see annex 7).

6.3.2. Option 3a – Medium level of impact⁹⁷

6.3.2.1. Extended Producer Responsibility – Basic scheme

This assumes that the producers of plastic material incorporated in fishing and aquaculture gear have responsibility for setting up an organisation to ensure that waste is collected at port, sent to appropriate recycling facilities, incineration plants or landfill sites and reporting.

Table 19. Extended Producer Responsibility- basic

Measure	Costs estimated in study for this impact assessment (annex 7)		Benefit
Gear producers have responsibility for taking back end-of-life fishing and aquaculture gear	€9.7 million	Annual cost for sorting, transport and processing	Specific reduction by this measure: 2600 tonnes per year (see annex 7). This adds to actions already underway/planned ⁹⁸ . Therefore, total cumulative reduction of ALDFG litter (including impact of Port Reception Facilities Directive) 5,500 tonnes per year.
	€6.3 million	Set-up costs	
	€1.3 million	annual administrative costs	

This option would add a maximum of about 4% to the cost of gear, under the unlikely assumption that producers would pass all costs on to users. The extra cost is 0.16% of annual revenue of the EU fishing fleet. The reduced environmental impact of 2,000 tonnes per year translates to between €2 million and €7 million in economic benefit for fishing, port and tourism industries. Note that the cumulative benefit achieved through the combination with other measures listed above would be much higher.

The establishment of an EPR scheme for fishing gear should, in addition, be considered in its interaction with the overall legislative framework. In particular, EPR schemes take over costs for the separate collection and treatment of waste which otherwise fall on the port facility which in turn passes these costs through to ship operators including fishers as part of the indirect fee. The establishment of EPR schemes for fishing gear would therefore reduce ports costs, and correspondingly port fees, related to the treatment of fishing gear. The costs impact would be most notably relevant in small fishing ports which currently have either no, or very small PRFs.

6.3.3. Option 3b – High level of impact

6.3.3.1. Extended Producer Responsibility - with Deposit Return Scheme

This is a scheme whereby a deposit is included in the price of the gear that is being purchased, but is then paid back to the fishermen by weight of fishing gear brought ashore as waste including complete nets, fragments of nets and other plastic fishing gear including buoys, pots etc. Whilst the revised Port Reception Facilities Directive removes disincentives for bringing waste ashore, this would provide a positive incentive to do so.

⁹⁷ NB: for all subsequent options, adequate measures need to be taken to ensure full integration with other fee collection schemes, including port fees.

⁹⁸ Implementation of PRF, revised CR, EMFF support

This would also be complementary to, and add to the impact of, the strengthened provisions of the revised control regulation, which aim to strengthen marking, retrieval, and reporting of loss. In particular, it would provide an incentive for anglers to return fishing gear waste to shore, leading to higher compliance with both these instruments. Finally, it would ensure adequate disposal, and insertion into the waste stream, of fishing gear waste, adding to the potential of re-use or recycling of the plastic material and potentially reducing overall cost.

Table 14. Extended Producer Responsibility- deposit return

Measure	Cost		Benefit
Fishers refunded for returning end of life or fished up fishing gear material (e.g. with manufacturers directly, via a port collection facility etc.)	The study in annex 7 estimates that that the set-up and administrative costs would be three times that of the simple EPR referenced under 6.3.2.1. The costs below are in addition to those in that option.		Can be assumed to reduce the amount of lost gear to the truly irrecoverable 5%. Reduction of ALDFG inflow into the sea by 2,600 tonnes per year over and above the other measures
	€12 million	set-up costs	
	€2.6 million	administrative costs	

This option would add over 5% to the cost of gear (or 0.2% of revenue). The reduced environmental impact of 2,500 tonnes per year provides between €3 million and €10 million in economic benefit for fishing, port and tourism industries. A successful scheme in Europe could be rolled out elsewhere, thus providing jobs for the service companies running the scheme.

6.3.3.2. Recycling target

Apart from fishing gear in most cases not being pure and clean, other characteristics may make it more challenging to recycle. For example, most fishing nets consist of several separate parts and hence of several types of plastics and material which will not all to the same degree be fit for recycling. In addition, the value of the different types of material can differ rendering for example only the recycling of specific parts economically feasible. Case in point is the Nylon 6/polyamide retrieval from fishnets, which is currently used as base material for i.a. clothing.

Table 15. Recycling target

Measure	Cost	Benefit
Member States have target for recycling	Zero. Once the litter is brought into proper waste management system, the relative costs of landfill, incineration and recycling are similar. Administration costs would already be taken care of in option 1a, the basic EPR system	There would be no direct benefit in terms of reduced litter inflow to the sea. However, adding recycling targets can add incentives for action aimed at increasing the amount of fishing gear brought back to shore.

Nevertheless, this option – in combination with an EPR which could stimulate its development – could provide an additional incentive for producers to undertake measures leading to the collection and reprocessing of returned gear, some of which may generate additional income. It has already and will continue to lead to innovation in the form of

encouraging the production of recycled products made from fishing gear material⁹⁹, and provides an incentive and critical mass, which will to reduce the costs of recycling, and may also contribute to reducing the overall costs of an EPR. It also is in line with the overall objectives of the circular economy initiative, which aims at reducing landfill, and incineration and increasing re-use of resources and raw materials.

6.3.4. Option 3c – Maximum level of impact

6.3.4.1. Extended producer Responsibility - with included retrieval operations

Without retrieval actions, the amount of litter from fishing in the sea will continue to increase because, whatever measures are taken to avoid loss of gear, some will always escape. In addition, given the long lifetime of plastic, even a modest annual input of litter will accumulate. In this option we assume that the extended producer responsibility covers the administrative costs of monitoring and the actual recovery by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund or its successor.

Table 16. Extended Producer Responsibility- with retrieval

Measure	Cost	Benefit
Producer of plastic incorporated in fishing gear has responsibility for supporting retrieval actions	€3 million to set up and 500,000 per year for operations	More effective recovery of lost gear and the possibility of reducing the amount of plastic in the sea.

This option would also generate job opportunities for the handling, cleaning, and dismantling of fishing gear, not to mention its actual recycling. The retrieval of marine litter in general and fishing gear in particular is already being supported financially including through measures under the EMFF. It is therefore realistic to assume that Member States would continue to make use of such funding opportunities in the future based on their specific needs and circumstances (subsidiarity).

This would be even more relevant in case EPRs for fishing gear were imposed through legislation. The compulsory inclusion of retrieval action as part of an EPR therefore is not likely to provides much added value. The decision on whether or not to launch specific retrieval schemes can be left to Member States under the subsidiarity principle.

6.3.4.2. Substitution of plastic products in fisheries and ban

Most fishing gear is composed of different materials, of which plastics are an important component. Choices over which materials to use under which circumstances are usually based on characteristics such as the strength, flexibility, durability, buoyancy, price and past experiences in using certain materials or designs. In this way, fishing gear can consist of a heterogeneous compilation of materials with different characteristics. As such, fishers usually opt for the most cost-effective options. Such choices do however, not always reflect the most environmentally friendly options (such as biodegradability in seawater, recyclability of parts and/or possibility to track lost or abandoned gear).

⁹⁹ Some operators currently on the market for recycling fishing gear break even only by importing gear from outside the EU. Viool V. et al. (2018). Study to support impact assessment for options to reduce the level of ALDFG Final report.

So far, we have no knowledge of materials that both meet the operational requirements for fishing gear as well (or better than) those currently used by the sector, and at the same time do not have the potential to cause long-term harm to the environment if lost or abandoned at sea¹⁰⁰. It is thus not possible to propose such a measure, let alone estimate its cost or impact.

6.3.5. Comparison of Impacts

The annual reduction in marine litter exceeds the current volume entering the sea, reflecting the fact that plastic already in the sea will be removed by the measures put in place.

Table 17. Comparison of impacts for fishing gear – NB – the impacts are cumulative

Measure	Investment cost (€ million)		Annual running cost € million		Annual reduction input to sea from fishing gear (tonnes)	Annual extraction of fishing gear and other plastic from previous years (tonnes)
	Private	Public	Private	Public		
EMFF				7.8		9,000 ¹⁰¹
Control Regulation	50.0				350	
Port Reception Facilities				-2	2,700 ¹⁰²	2.700
Marine Directive						
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	10.0		1.3		2,600	
EPR with deposit ¹⁰³	12.0		2.6		2,600	
Recycling target						
EPR with retrieval ¹⁰⁴	3.0		0.5			
Substitution of material						

¹⁰⁰ There is currently only one convincing example of research being conducted into replacement of material used in certain types of fishing gear with the objective of making this gear more environmentally sustainable [ref Dolly Rope project]. This project is, however, limited in scope and not yet at the stage of allowing conclusions.

¹⁰¹ This is a aspirational target based on EU countries matching the efficiency of Norwegian operations

¹⁰² This is reduction of inflow

¹⁰³ Over and above what is already planned

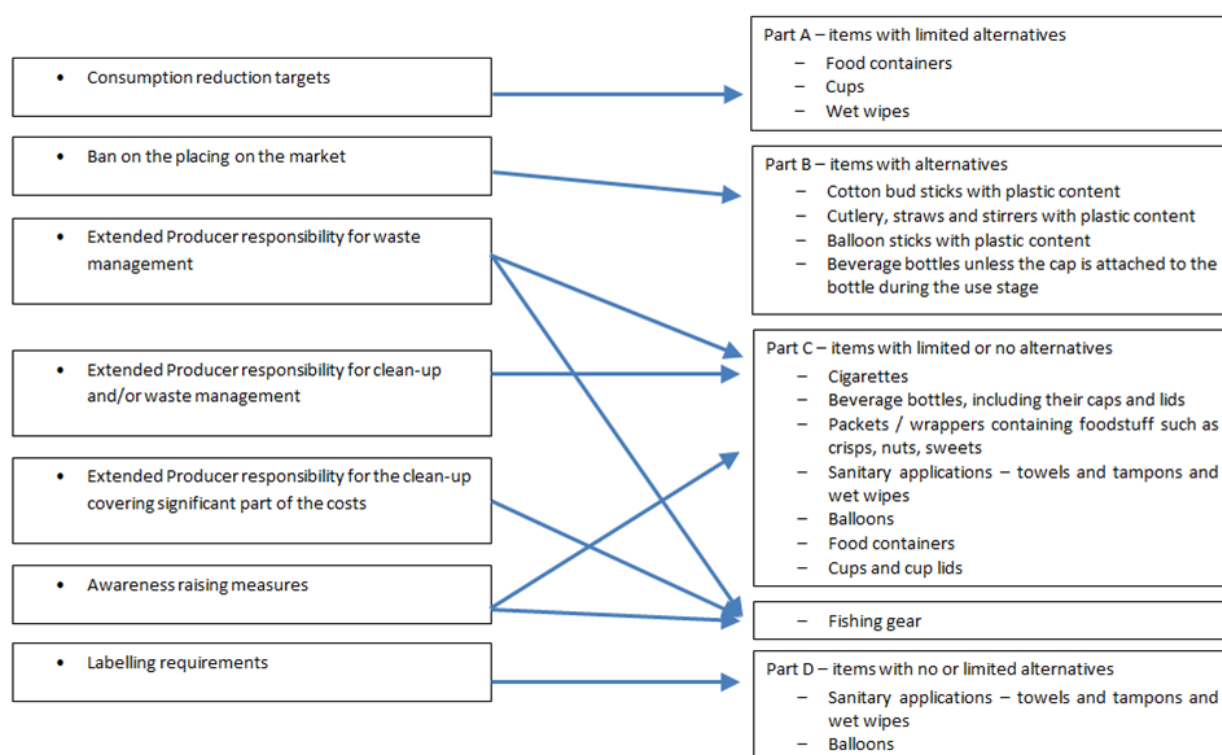
¹⁰⁴ Over and above what is already planned; only administration, costs of operations paid from public budget

7. PREFERRED OPTION

The option with the highest potential to deliver ambitious environmental results, while achieving positive economic impacts, limiting negative effects on employment, ensuring public acceptance, and contributing to wider resource efficiency would be sub-option 2c and sub-option 3a. Whilst estimates of marine litter volumes need to be treated with caution, the preferred measures could **significantly reduce marine litter from single use plastics and fishing gear**. These are the main sources of plastic marine litter in Europe, accounting for 84 per cent of European plastics entering the marine environment by count, which is the best indicator of the environmental, social and economic impacts. The measures on fishing gear will also lead to the removal of some plastics already in the seas.

The option includes additional measures for SUP and fishing gear and fills gaps in EU level action including legislation that are only partially closed by recent efforts such as the revision of the Port Reception Facilities Directive, the revised waste legislation, the Plastic Bags Directive, and measures in the Plastics Strategy. Figure 13 shows the preferred option grouped by different items.

Figure 14. Preferred choice (2c and 3a)



7.1. Recommended option for SUP

The recommended option would reduce SUP marine litter by half and includes:

- bans on the placing on the market of single use plastic versions of cotton bud sticks, balloon sticks, cutlery, straws and stirrers;

- reduction targets for single use plastic versions of drinks cups and lids, wet wipes, and food containers: 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030;
- Extended Producer Responsibility schemes to contribute to the cost of prevention, waste management, including clean-up of litter for the items that are not packaging such as cigarette filters, sanitary applications including wet wipes, drinks cups and lids, food containers, balloons.
- for those items that are considered to be packaging, as defined under the Packaging Directive, the existing Extended Producer Responsibility will be extended to cover the clean-up cost.
- labelling requirements for sanitary towels, wet wipes and balloons; and
- product design measures for drink bottles related to tethered caps.

Setting EU-wide targets for different SUP would 'guide' measures to be adopted by Member States, ensuring that they are ambitious enough to achieve the desired effect. The costs to implement these targets will ultimately depend on the choice and design of the measures adopted at national level. Section 5 highlighted a wide range of complementary measures that can be used in a targeted way. In particular:

- There is continuing successful experience with the use of behavioural 'nudge' policies that could be used to shift consumer behaviour, and lead to efficient reductions. Analysis of behavioural economics suggests that consumers face scarcity of time and attention, and already receive too much labelling and information. Instead, it suggests that a more bottom-up approach would be working more actively with different actors (this would indirectly translate into natural awareness-raising initiatives through social networks and the press). Indeed, behavioural insights suggest that social norms and myopia – among other behavioural biases – apply in this context. Bottom-up campaigns – by making visible the environmentally friendly behaviour of the progressive group - would be more appropriate to activate virtuous behaviour via social norms.
- Businesses (both producers and retailers) are showing a willingness to pledge voluntary action. The preferred option will send a clear policy signal and reward early action.

This combination of measures relating to each type of single use plastic item reflects the messages from the public consultation, stakeholder workshops and the conference. It is coherent with the view in the public consultation that legislative requirements to better design or to produce with materials with low life cycle impact are generally the most effective approach, followed by reduction targets. It strikes a balance between measures, recognising the effectiveness of reduction targets for drinks cups and food containers, and EPR schemes for several types of items.

7.2. Recommended option for fishing gear

The recommended option for fishing and aquaculture gear is the introduction of an Extended Producer Responsibility for producers of fishing gear containing plastic.

This option has overall the highest potential impact on the reduction of the ALDFG contribution to marine litter. It builds on, complements and facilitates full implementation of action under option 1. It would underpin and facilitate full implementation of other instruments. In particular, it adds the specific support of a producer-financed dedicated

mechanism targeting the collection and treatment of waste fishing gear as an additional incentive for the return and collection of waste fishing gear to port, which is already the object of both the Control Regulation and the revised Port Reception Facilities Directive. It can notably contribute to easing cost burdens for small scale ports and/or fishing operators by ensuring that some or all of the costs linked to increased collection and treatment of litter from fishing gear in ports, and treatment beyond the framework of the PRF Directive, is taken over by the producers of fishing gear.

This type of positive incentive was seen by the majority of stakeholders as the most effective means of reducing the loss of gear into the sea.

Setting up an extended producer responsibility scheme for fishing gear containing plastic implies a cost which, if it were passed on to the fishing sector, would be marginal with regard to its overall turnover ($\approx 0.16\%$). Experience shows that in competitive markets (for fishing gear materials, 60% of the material is imported) producers tend to absorb all or part of the EPR scheme's costs. It is therefore unlikely that the full cost of the EPR scheme would be passed on to fishing operators. In addition, current provisions under EU funding instruments, notably the EMFF, also allow Member States to finance actions leading to the reduction of the accumulation of lost fishing gear in the marine environment. This type of financial support, if taken in addition to the EPR would allow to offset initial costs of the above EPR scheme, both for producers, for local administrations, and for fishers.

In sum therefore, a genuine reduction in costs for fishers as compared to the baseline scenario should be expected. Finally, and in line with the Plastics Strategy's objective of integrating and completing EU action on plastics and marine litter, the EPR would be integrated as appropriate with the management of port reception facilities, including by contributing to its costs.

Option 1, which consists of the full implementation of existing measures and proposal already on the table, will lead to progress in reducing the amount of fishing gear litter ending up in the sea.

- In particular and as noted before, the revised Port Reception Facilities Directive would reduce disincentives for fishers to bring gear and other litter back to port. As stated explicitly by the Commission in its proposal for a revision of the Port Reception Facilities Directive, additional measures for reducing lost or abandoned fishing gear, were still being examined from the outset, such as Extended Producer Responsibility¹⁰⁵. Such additional measures can ensure the treatment of plastic components of fishing gear in a dedicated waste management cycle, including the potential re-use or recycling, with the advantages set out above. Without this next step however, the envisaged encouragement of fishers to return gear to shore under the measures set out under the PRF Directive may not yield maximum returns, because in a number of cases notably affecting the small scale fishing sector and smaller ports, the increased port fees may have an impact on the fishers.

¹⁰⁵ Explanatory Memorandum of PRF Directive, section 1

Option 3b, which consists of strengthening even further the proposal for an EPR by adding a deposit scheme and a recycling target would further enhance the level of return of gear. It is however more costly to implement potentially increasing costs for the sector whilst also increasing administrative burden. In addition, in the case of fishing gear, and as opposed to land-based plastic material, the risk of losing the deposit is relatively high, potentially diminishing its impact as an incentive.

Setting a recycling target would on balance create complexities in defining such a target, administrative burden and costs of its monitoring would be considered disproportionate – in particular where setting up an EPR scheme in itself is already likely to stimulate the development of the current small market for the recycling of fishing gear materials.

Option 3c includes the obligation to fund a compulsory retrieval scheme for fishing gear under the EPR, is considered to be:

- Disproportionate, in that it makes compulsory to finance a measure which is based on voluntary participation and is currently being supported by i.a. EU financial instruments, support which will in all likelihood continue and be strengthened in the future.
- Potentially duplicative, to the extent that gear retrieval is included as an obligation in the proposal for a revision of the Control Regulation under the Common Fisheries Policy

7.3. Nature of the instrument

The decision to favour a **dedicated legislative instrument** (lex specialis) was motivated by:

- some existing legal instruments are general in their objectives, and their measures to tackle marine litter do not specifically target products so this would go beyond their original scope;
- other instruments are too narrow in their scope to address the identified ten SUPs, such as in the case of the Packaging directive that regulates only packaging (but even then has specific targeted measures only for one SUP item, namely plastic bags);
- fishing gear is already subject to a regulatory regime spread across different EU policies - fisheries, transport (PRF) and environmental policies (e.g. WFD, MFSD). None of the existing legal acts could reflect the wide variety of measures foreseen in the new instrument to effectively target the marine problem upstream.
- a dedicated legal instrument to address a specific waste stream (i.e. a sub-group of plastic waste) or environmental risks of a specific activity (e.g. the landfill directive that addresses one of many disposal operations - the landfilling of waste) is common in the waste legal regulatory framework (e.g. directives on batteries, packaging).

The possibility of amending existing legislation was considered. In view of the wide variety of measures in the preferred option, it would require the amendment of several existing legal instruments, such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the proposed Port Reception Facilities Directive, or the Fisheries Control Regulation. The approach to amend multiple legal acts would lead to further fragmentation of the legal framework and bring more confusion and complexity for the Member States, economic operators and consumers in terms of transposition and implementation.

With regard to the nature of the legal act, a Directive is the appropriate legal instrument for the attainment of the envisaged objectives and measures. It allows:

- the definition of harmonised and clear objectives (e.g. binding consumption reduction targets) and measures (bans and product requirements for placing on the market, extended producer responsibility that harmonises the level of financial responsibility of producers for prevention and waste management objectives) that will ensure a level playing field across the Member States in terms of scope and ambition of action;
- Member States - for some but not all measures - to choose the most appropriate legal, administrative and economic instruments to implement them. This is in line with the subsidiarity principle. Existing legal acts concerning other waste streams but containing similar measures (awareness raising campaigns, consumption reduction targets and extended producer responsibility schemes) also envisage same level of flexibility to Member States to choose the appropriate instruments. More prescriptive instruments to implement the goals and measures would be difficult to justify based on the principle of subsidiarity. The measures targeting products that have alternatives or that justify stricter intervention measures – i.e. marketing restrictions and product and labelling requirements – would leave no room for adapted Member States measures.

Bans on placing on the market, product requirements and labelling requirements are compatible with a Directive and many existing EU waste directives contain such measures. They can be clearly defined to avoid any divergence in their implementation (e.g. by setting clear entry-into-force rules, harmonised labelling rules). On the other hand, a regulation – by the fact that it is addressed to economic operators and should be implementable without specific Member State transposition measures – is incompatible with the measures envisaged in the preferred option, namely consumption reduction targets, EPR and awareness raising campaigns, because they require the adoption of national and even local transposition and implementation measures to complement already existing regulatory regimes.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8.1. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

The **main indicator** for progress towards meeting the objectives set for this policy initiative will be the beach counts of litter. Member States shall use the methodology developed by the MSFD Technical Group, and as set out in JRC Technical Reports. A revised Commission Decision was adopted in April 2017 establishing criteria and methodological standards for the determination of Good Environmental Status (GES) for marine litter. This Commission Decision requires that litter shall be monitored in the coastline in all cases and may additionally be monitored on the sea surface and the seabed.

At the same time, threshold values are to be established at Union or other levels (regional/sub-regional) for quantities of litter on beaches/water column/seafloor, for litter ingested by marine animals and for adverse effects (entanglement, other types of injury or mortality or health effects, of the species concerned due to litter). These values will be set through a collaborative and inclusive process and will facilitate evaluating effectiveness of measures against specific sources of marine litter.

Work on baselines and thresholds started in 2017. It is not feasible to finalise it and have it reflected in the next reports (expected in October 2018) from Member States (under the MSFD Directive). However, it will be used for the next round of monitoring programmes (2020) and inform the updated programmes of measures (2022) against marine litter.

Monitoring will also be required with regard to measures to reduce the consumption of SUP. The measurement methodology will be established in the waste committee established under EU waste legislation. Where possible it should take advantage of existing EU production and trade databases (PRODCOM¹⁰⁶ and COMEXT¹⁰⁷) managed by Eurostat and regularly updated with information provided by Member States. Synergies should also be used with regard to existing reporting mechanisms, in particular, for the measurement and reporting of consumption reduction of plastic bags under the Plastic Bags Directive.

In line with the principle of subsidiarity, the exact data collection methods will depend on the internal organisation of each Member State and the nature of the implementing instruments chosen, where there is flexibility.

In addition, in accordance with the Waste Framework Directive (as it will be amended in 2018), Member States are obliged to reflect their waste prevention measures in their Waste Prevention Programmes, including measures to monitor and assess their implementation.

With regard to fishing gear, the implementation of the revised Control Regulation will improve the capacity for monitoring and analysing the extent to which fishing gear is returned or lost at sea. In line with the existing legislation, Member States take measures to accurately identify, quantify and track the number of fishing gear being deployed, monitored, set upon and recovered, including via satellite technology; and unique identifiers for fishing gear would allow for tracking and deriving estimates on effort levels. Over and above this, in accordance with the minimum requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility schemes established in the Waste Framework Directive, the producers of fishing gear would be expected to monitor fishing gear placed on the market and waste fishing gear deposited in appropriate port reception facilities and the subsequent waste treatment.

In line with the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making Better Regulation, an evaluation of the legal instrument will be envisaged to assess how the implementation of the legislation.

8.2. Operational objectives

The **operational objectives** of the initiative are to:

- remove single use plastic versions of cotton bud sticks, balloon sticks, cutlery, straws and stirrers from the market;

¹⁰⁶ Survey for the collection and dissemination of statistics on the production of industrial (mainly manufactured) goods, both in value and quantity terms, with at least an annual frequency, in the EU.

¹⁰⁷ Eurostat reference database for EU external trade, including imports and exports.

- reduce single use plastic versions of drinks cups and lids, wet wipes, and food containers: 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030;
- reduce marine litter from single use plastic versions of cigarette filters, drinks bottles, crisp packets and sweet wrappers, wet wipes, sanitary applications including wet wipes, drinks cups and lids, food containers, balloons;
- Encourage and facilitate the retrieval of lost fishing gear, in particular by improving the availability and reliability of information on its location and compliance with legal obligations regarding this reporting and retrieval; and
- Maximise the entry of end-of-life gear from the fisheries and aquaculture sector, including retrieved ALDFG, into an efficient waste management regime by setting up adequate incentives, schemes and infrastructures to collect, sort, dismantle, transport and recycle used plastic materials in a cost-effective way.