
Policy paper
September 2018

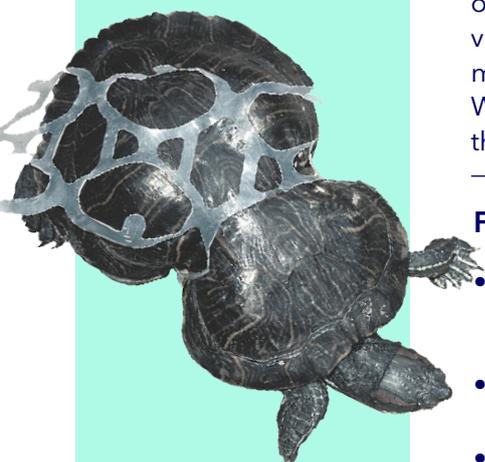
OUR VIEW

Plastic pollution is a global issue that should be solved within the context of global regulation i.e. the UN's Maritime Organisation, IMO.

Danish Shipping supports work within the IMO developing an action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships.

Port reception facilities should be strengthened so that sorting of waste on board ships is not in vain.

We support the EU directive on Port Reception Facilities as a stepping stone to a global approach strengthening adequate port reception facilities.



Plastic in the ocean

Since the ocean is a critical resource and a significant part of our natural environment it is our duty to protect it. In our opinion, responsible shipping companies do not dispose plastic into the ocean. Furthermore, Danish Shipping supports EU regulation aiming at strengthening port reception facilities so that sorting of waste on board ships is not in vain.

Having strong maritime roots as a seafaring nation, the ocean is a corner stone of Danish identity and close to the heart of the thousands of seafarers that travel the oceans every day. For the past 30 years the shipping industry has been subjected to international regulation that prohibits the discarding of any kind of plastic anywhere at sea.

Our position on the issue is clear; plastic does not belong in the ocean. It poses a serious threat to the ocean's ecosystems and claims the life of thousands of marine animals and about one million seabirds every year.

Though only a minor part of the plastic found in the ocean is estimated to originate from shipping, Danish Shipping supports several initiatives that have risen to the challenge of addressing plastic in the ocean. We are part of the Ministry of Environment and Food's campaign against marine waste "Together for a Sea Without Waste" and we are a founding partner of the Ocean Plastic Forum.

Through these initiatives we agree to support a common norm that plastic in the ocean is unacceptable, spread ideas on how to tackle further pollution and handle the tons of plastic which is already present on the beaches, at the ocean surface, and widely spread on the sea floor.

Furthermore, several of our members engage in a range of activities that address ocean plastic pollution and we encourage initiatives where relevant.

There are good options for plastic recycling, but it requires targeted sorting and handling at the port recipient facilities. Therefore, these facilities must be strengthened globally, so that they meet demands adequately and the waste sorting taking place on board is not in vain.

For more information:

[Together for a Sea Without Waste](#)
[Ocean Plastic Forum](#)

FACTS

- According to the British research organization Eunomia 80 pct. of the annual input of plastic in the ocean comes from land based sources whilst 20 pct of the input originates from maritime activities, primarily from the fishing industry.
- According to the United Nations Environment Program, an estimated eight million tons of plastic waste enter the world's oceans each year.
- IMO is the global standard-setting regulator for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. The MARPOL convention has prohibited the disposal of all plastics anywhere at sea since 1988.