



Bundesverband  
Meeresmüll e.V.



Kölner Rhein-Aufräum-Kommando-Einheit



# Riverine Litter

## to be included in the ICPR management plan

Responsibility, Threshold, Action

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# The invisible borders of Litter-Responsibility

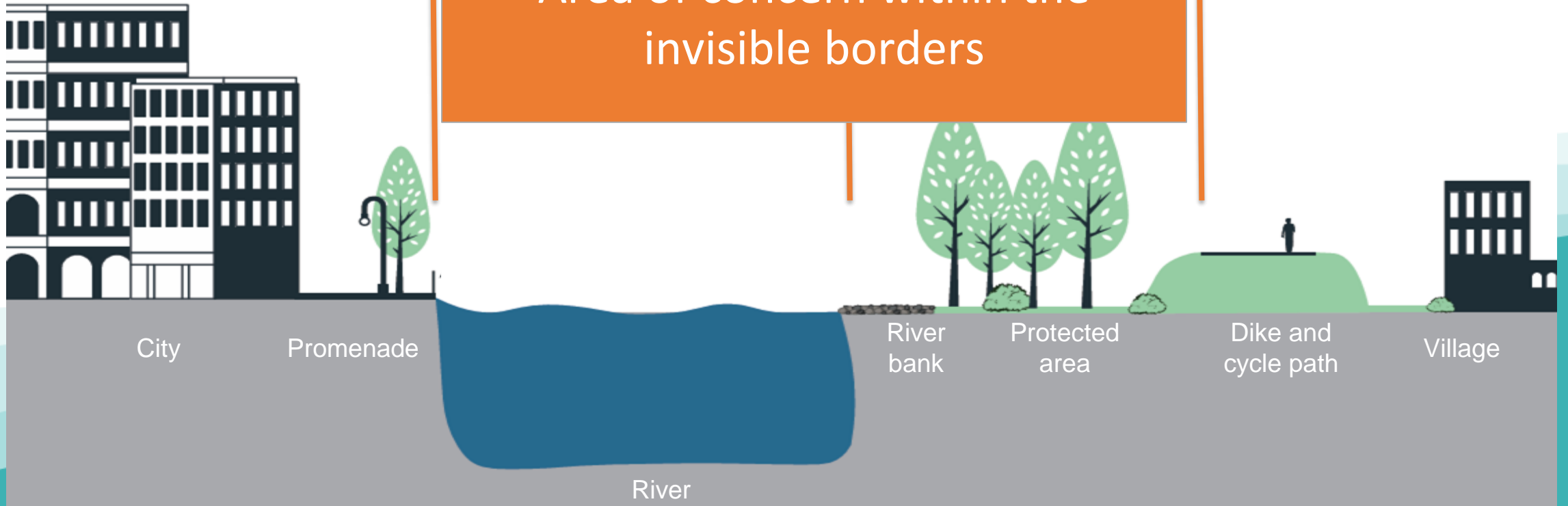
Municipalities  
are responsible for the litter

Federal Ministry of  
Transportation

Federal / district government  
or Municipalities

Municipalities  
are responsible for the litter

Area of concern within the  
invisible borders





# Litter at river banks and in the river

## Lots of data available to show the issue



300t in 2024, 280t in 2023



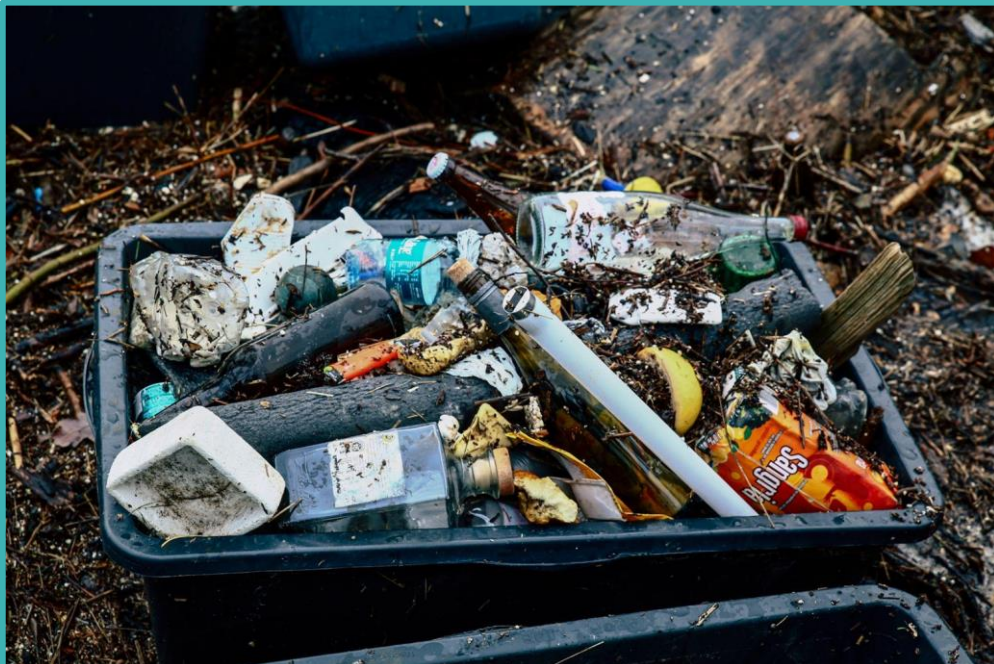


# Litter flowing in the river

## (Rheinkrake Cologne – Paper to be published)

### Monitoring

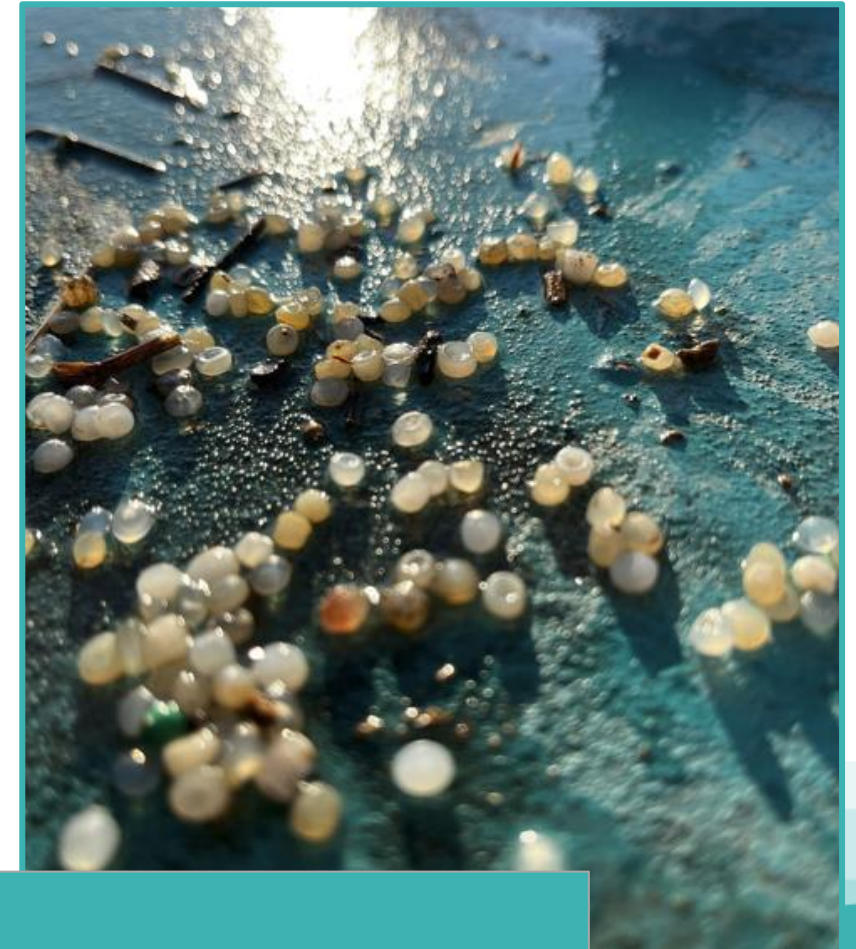
- Continuous 24/7
- Covering 1% of the river surface



- About 2 tons (~20.000 pieces) in 16 month
- Main material type: plastic
- Largest number of items: fragments



# Litter flowing in the river (Makro, Meso, Micro)



“Now it is too late for any  
containment measures”  
from one of the district government.



# Litter at river banks and in the river

*February 2021: 3,73 Tonnen*

***September 2021: 8,12 Tonnen***  
*(Ahrtal flooding)*

*February 2022: 1,3 Tonnen*

*February 2023: 1,4 Tonnen*

*February 2024: 2,3 Tonnen*

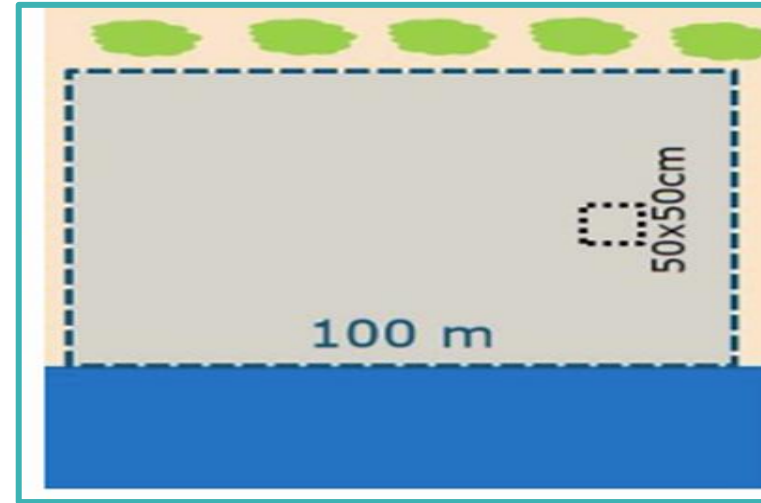
*November 2024: 0,9 Tonnen*



# Data available to assess the problem

– more data is generated

EU Marine Litter Framework:  
below a threshold of 20 pieces  
per 100 meter litter is not harmful



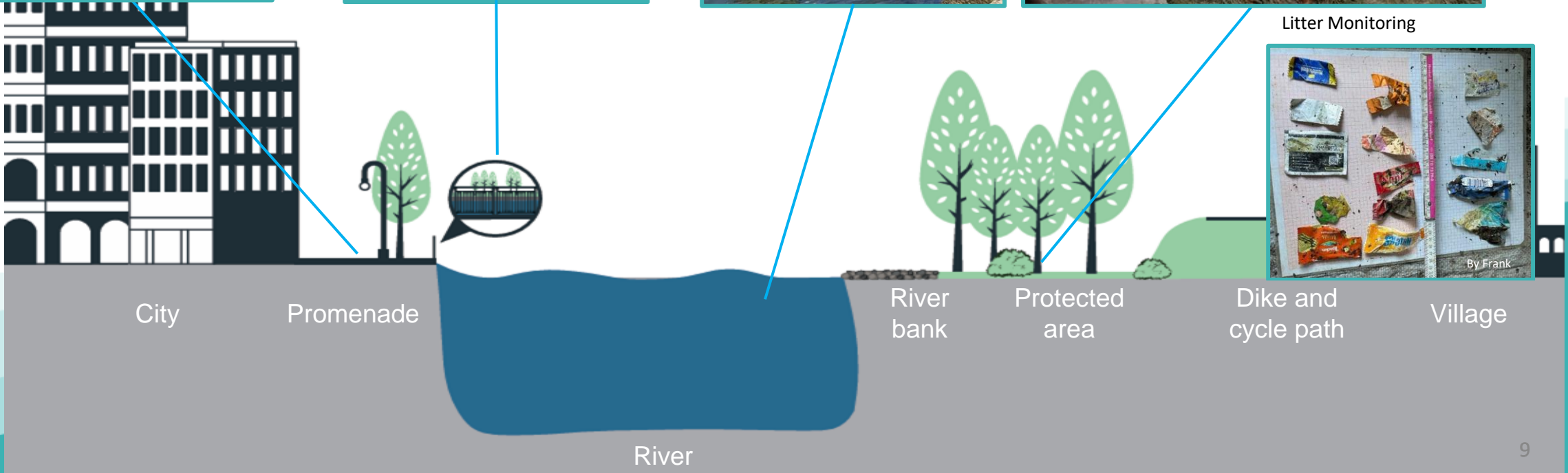
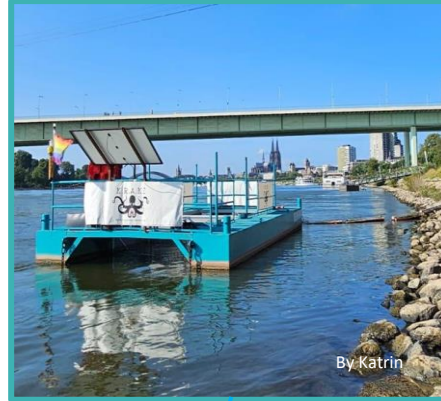
We found 813 pieces on 2x40  
meters river bank until the first  
shore, mainly plastic





# Many people talk (some implement)

## Measures on EU, national and local level





# Riverine Litter must be included in the ICPR management plan

Include litter as a core theme in the ICPR management plan, in line with other standards like OSPAR

- Responsibility: the owner / respective institution of the rivers and protected areas
- Threshold: 20 pieces per 100m use existing KPIs
- Action & Measures: Work on action plans
- Data: align with existing methods, harmonization & standardization of data collection
- Funding: Allocate the costs to the products causing the litter (Germany: Einwegkunststoff-Fondgesetz)

→ support less litter in the river basin, and prevent litter from entering the sea





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# Wrap up: What we know

Please write down the key aspects to reduce pollution due to macro litter in the Rhine basin. Use the headlines as orientation.

Origin of litter in the basin

I. Sources,  
Pathways & Sinks

II. Drivers

III. Regulations

Approaches to reduce pollution due to  
litter

IV.  
Responsibilities

V. Measures

VI. What else  
needs to be done?



# Discussion and Exchange