

Waste Collection Data

Waste collection results from the pilot activities in Aarhus (DK), Rostock (DE) and Gdańsk (PL) through the Circular Ocean-bound Plastic (COP) project. The pilots used different collection methods and monitoring approaches; figures should therefore not be read as direct performance comparisons.

AARHUS

Collection method:
SeaProtectorOne

2024-2025

18,725

litter items

59%

artificial polymer
materials

50.3%

single-use plastic

ROSTOCK

Collection method:
PortBin

May-Oct, 2024 & 2025

14,413

litter items

71%

artificial polymer
materials

45.9%

single-use plastic

GDAŃSK

Collection methods:
EcoKayak, Portbin, Divers

2024-2025

2,817

litter items

+260 kg

total weight

378

participants

At a glance

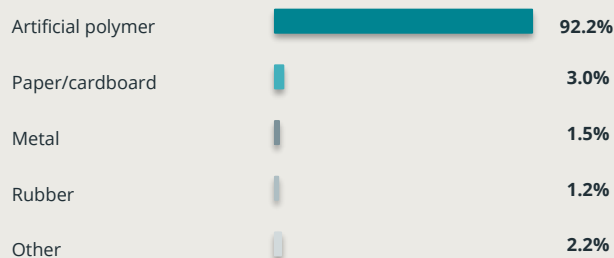
Aarhus · material composition

2024-2025 · 18,725 items



Rostock · material composition

2024-2025 · 14,413 items



Gdańsk · EcoKayak & material composition

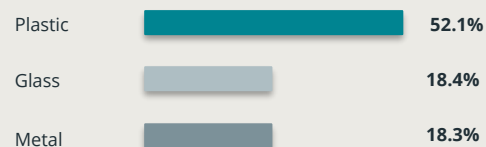
2024-2025

2,449 items

241 kg

378

participants



DATA NOTES

Aarhus: SeaProtectorOne 2024-2025 data. Rostock: PortBin data from May-October in 2024 and 2025. Gdańsk: Green Kayak figures shown here; the pilot also used Seabin, PortBin and diver clean-ups. Detailed tables available on subsequent page.

The COP project is co-financed by Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027 through funds from the European Regional Development Fund.

AARHUS · SeaProtectorOne · 2021–2022

Total litter: 63,035 | SUP: 34,895 (55.4%)

Material category	Items	Share
Artificial polymer	38,356	60.8%
Paper/cardboard	14,143	22.4%
Metal	5,631	8.9%
Glass/ceramics	1,993	3.2%
Rubber	304	0.5%
Cloth/textile	301	0.5%
Processed/worked wood	594	0.9%
Other	1,713	2.7%

Top 10 litter items

#	Litter item	Qty	Share
1	Small plastic bags	9,412	14.9%
2	Plastic cups/lids	9,001	14.3%
3	Cigarette butts / nicotine pouches	5,578	8.9%
4	Paper fragments	5,102	8%
5	Plastic crisps/sweets wrappers	4,559	7.2%
6	Paper food trays/wrappers/drink containers	4,343	6.9%
7	Metal drink cans	4,051	6.4%
8	Paper bags	2,210	3.5%
9	Plastic straws	2,074	3.3%
10	Glass bottles/pieces	1,993	3.2%

ROSTOCK · PortBin · May–Oct 2024 & 2025

14,413 items | 63.3 kg | SUP: 6,614 (45.9%)

Material category	Items	Share
Artificial polymer	13,290	92.2%
Paper/Cardboard	432	3.0%
Metal	209	1.5%
Rubber	168	1.2%
Worked wood	157	1.1%
Glass/ceramics	96	0.7%
Cloth/textile	46	0.3%
Other	15	0.1%

Top 10 litter items

#	Litter item	Qty	Share
1	Fragments and foil of non-foamed plastic	2,839	19.7%
2	Plastic crisps/sweets wrappers	2,333	16.2%
3	Cigarette butts	2,074	14.4%
4	Plastic tobacco packaging	1,522	10.6%
5	Plastic sheets/industrial packaging	1,034	7.2%
6	Small plastic bags	902	6.3%
7	Plastic drink caps/lids	619	4.3%
8	Foamed polystyrene fragments	228	1.6%
9	Other plastic hygiene/care	225	1.6%
10	Paper fragments	223	1.5%

AARHUS · SeaProtectorOne · 2024–2025

Total litter: 18,725 | SUP: 9,425 (50.3%)

Material category	Items	Share
Artificial polymer	11,057	59.0%
Paper/Cardboard	4,408	23.5%
Metal	2,098	11.2%
Glass/ceramics	1,026	5.5%
Rubber	85	0.5%
Cloth/textile	45	0.2%
Worked wood	6	<0.1%
Other	0	0.0%

Top 10 litter items

#	Litter item	Qty	Share
1	Plastic cups/lids	7,356	39.3%
2	Metal drink cans	1,870	10%
3	Paper bags	1,634	8.7%
4	Glass bottles/pieces	1,019	5.4%
5	Paper food trays/wrappers/drink containers	851	4.5%
6	Other paper items	660	3.5%
7	Non-foamed plastic fragments	625	3.4%
8	Small plastic bags	616	3.3%
9	Paper cups	533	2.9%
10	Plastic tobacco packaging / nicotine pouches	495	2.6%

GDAŃSK · 2024–2025

Method / location	Recorded result
Green Kayak 2024-2025	160 participants · 33 trips · 144.44 kg · 1,490 items
Green Kayak 2025	218 participants · 40 trips · 97.25 kg · 959 items
PortBin Sienna Grobla	94 (2024) · 100 (2025)
PortBin Szafarnia	32 (2024) · – (2025)
Seabin Szafarnia	27 (2024) · 29 (2025)
Seabin Zabi Kruk	1 (2024) · 6 (2025)
Divers	3 divers · >4 hours · 20 kg

Material composition

Material	2024	2025
Plastic	53.0%	50.9%
Glass	17.7%	19.4%
Metal	18.3%	18.5%
Paper	5.2%	2.9%
Other	5.8%	8.4%

Most frequently collected waste

Waste type	2024 (Qty)	2025 (Qty)
Glass bottles	262	229
Metal drink cans	255	211
Plastic bottles	240	192
Plastic food packaging	142	163
Plastic sheets	125	118
Plastic bags	78	26
Styrofoam fragments	55	91