

HOW DOES MARINE LITTER AFFECT PEOPLE, THEIR PROPERTY & LIVELIHOOD?

- Rusty metal and broken glass on the beach or the seabed may injure people...
- Medical waste (syringes, bandages, etc.) and sewage pose a public health hazard through transmission of infectious diseases...
- Scuba divers may be seriously injured or even drowned due to entanglement...
- Seafood that is "poisoned" with toxics meant for human consumption may pose another health risk...

- Littered coasts are certainly not appealing to the eye...
- Littered beaches do not attract tourists... and fewer tourists means less income for the coastal communities
- Beach clean ups are rather costly, especially in remote areas that are difficult to access or lack infrastructure (waste bins, etc.).

- Drifting fishing nets and ropes wrap around propellers, anchors, etc. causing costly or irreparable damage to boats and yachts.
- Floating litter poses a significant navigational hazard to marine vessels.
- Fishermen especially, have to deal with the cost of repairing or purchasing damaged or lost fishing gear, nets, etc. On top of that, "ghost nets" that continue to trap fish, leave fishermen with smaller catches...

Any harm to ecosystem functions and the services they provide, due to marine litter, ultimately affects people's livelihoods.