



Preventing and reducing
marine plastic litter
from sea-based sources



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

OCEANLITTER PROGRAMME/GLOLITTER PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT SECOND SOUTH AMERICA REGIONAL TASK FORCE WORKSHOP FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile, 25-29 May 2026

1 The GloLitter Partnerships Project, housed under the IMO OceanLitter Programme, is a global project supporting developing countries, including Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, in identifying opportunities for the prevention and reduction of marine plastic litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors, with a particular focus on sea-based sources of marine plastic litter (SBMPL). The project is led by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and implemented in partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

2 SBMPL originates from activities like fishing, shipping, and aquaculture, contributing significantly to ocean pollution. Key sources include abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), lost cargo, and operational waste from ships, which harm marine life and threaten ecosystems. IMO and FAO are increasing efforts to prevent, reduce, and manage this waste, including through improved regulations.

3 The GloLitter Partnerships Project Second South America Regional Task Force Workshop will be held at the FAO Regional Office for Latin America in Santiago, Chile, from Monday, 25 May to Friday, 29 May 2026. Building on the outcomes of the first event, the Second South America Regional Task Force Workshop will provide a platform for participating countries and partners to advance implementation of the proposals developed during the first event and to strengthen regional cooperation in addressing SBMPL. In particular, the Second South America Regional Task Force Workshop aims to:

- a. Review and validate a new comprehensive catalogue documenting national activities and experiences related to SBMPL management to promote international cooperation among countries. The catalogue will include information on policies, projects, and programmes across the fisheries and maritime sectors, including key activities, results, responsible institutions, partner organizations, and sectors involved. It will also capture funding sources, as well as existing and potential donor programmes supporting SBMPL-related actions, with the aim of facilitating knowledge-sharing, coordination, and access to financial and technical support.
- b. Exchange good practices and knowledge to plan national and regional actions to address SBMPL, including through country presentations and thematic sessions aligned with the workshop agenda. These will cover key topics such as fishing gear marking, particularly for gillnet fleets, research and data collection, monitoring and technology solutions, gender and social inclusion (including the role of women and youth), and stakeholder engagement. This objective also includes strengthening regional collaboration through the use of platforms such as the Global Plastic Hub and identifying priority actions requiring technical and financial support.

4 This call for proposals is open to any existing initiatives in **South America** belonging to the following categories:

- a. The first focuses on **research, innovation, and technology**, highlighting solutions that address marine plastic litter from the fisheries and maritime sectors, including tools, data, and approaches that support sustainable practices.
- b. The second focuses on **gender and youth inclusion**, exploring gender-responsive approaches to marine plastic litter management in the maritime and fisheries sectors and initiatives that promote the participation and empowerment of women, youth and underrepresented groups.

5 The guidelines and timelines for submission of proposals are outlined in **Annex 1** to this document. Selected proposals will be featured in the Cooperation Catalogue that will result from the Workshop (see 3.a.) and representatives from the initiatives will have the opportunity to introduce their initiatives to the participants. All candidates must complete the GloLitter Regional Catalogue Data Collection survey found on the OceanLitter website. Submission of this survey constitutes the official submission of these proposals.

Topics

6 The event will focus on strengthening regional cooperation in South America to address SBMPL from the maritime and fisheries sectors. **Proposals related to plastic litter originating from land-based environments, or other aquatic environments such as rivers or lakes, will not be eligible. Furthermore, only applications from the South America region will be considered.**

7 **Please note that no funding will be provided to support in-person participation. Selected speakers are welcome to present their work virtually if they are unable to fund their in-person participation.**

Women’s and youth roles in addressing sea-based sources of marine plastic litter (SBMPL)

8 The value of gender equality and youth inclusion is widely acknowledged. Nevertheless, the historically male-dominated maritime and fisheries sectors continue to struggle to ensure a fair representation of women and youth in the workplace. IMO and FAO have adopted a strategic approach to support stakeholders in achieving gender equality under SDG 5. The OceanLitter Programme's gender initiatives have included the establishment of a small-grant scheme and seed-funded pilot projects to support women-led activities addressing SBMPL in the fisheries sector, including the upcycling, repurposing, and recycling of marine plastic litter from fishing operations. Building on this, there is increasing recognition of the important role that youth can play as innovators, advocates, and agents of change in tackling marine plastic pollution. However, increased efforts are needed on national, regional, and global levels to close the gender gap while also creating inclusive opportunities for youth participation and leadership.

We invite proposal submissions related to addressing the challenges and identifying best approaches to women’s and youth engagement in addressing SBMPL from the maritime and fisheries sectors in South America

Research and data

9 The proposals should include topics related to SBMPL from the maritime and fisheries sectors, such as the characterization of plastic waste generated onboard vessels, monitoring, and assessment of specific impacts, as well as possible solutions applicable to the developing country context. Research is crucial in informing effective and practical solutions to prevent and reduce SBMPL from the maritime and fisheries sectors. The topics related to research needs include improved information about plastic waste generated onboard vessels during shipping and fishing operations, monitoring and assessment of this waste, and specific impacts if this plastic waste becomes marine litter.

10 The proposed topics can address the maritime and/or fisheries sectors in South America. The illustrative topics include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ research findings on the best methods of quantification, characterization, and management of marine plastic litter originating from the maritime and/or fisheries sectors. This includes assessment and monitoring of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), plastic waste generated during shipping activities (single-use plastic bottles, cups, packaging materials, or other), and/or fishing activities (such as ice bags, bait straps, coolers, and food packaging);
- ✓ research findings on specific impacts from marine plastic litter on the environment, economies, and livelihoods, including the impact from ALDFG; and
- ✓ research findings on adopting a circular economy approach in the maritime and fisheries sectors to reduce further plastic use, including reuse or recycling at port facilities.

Technology and innovation

11 The proposals should focus on technologies and innovative solutions to prevent and reduce SBMPL, improving the use and stewardship of plastic items used by the maritime and fisheries sectors, as well as facilitating sound end-of-life management of these plastic items and the recovery of SBMPL from the maritime and fisheries sectors.

12 Technology and innovation can drive solutions to prevent and reduce SBMPL from the maritime and fisheries sectors, particularly through private industry and research stakeholders invested in this issue. Innovative solutions are required at every stage of the plastic lifecycle for materials used within the maritime and fisheries sectors.

13 The illustrative topics to highlight available technologies and innovations within the maritime and fisheries sector, include but are not limited to:

- ✓ marine plastic litter preventive technologies that can be adopted by the shipping industry and/or fishing vessels;
- ✓ sustainable cleaning and monitoring technologies of marine plastic litter;
- ✓ ALDFG recovery technologies;
- ✓ technology for fishing gear marking and tracking;
- ✓ end-of-life fishing gear management, including recycling; and
- ✓ innovative approaches to establishing port reception facilities (PRFs).

ANNEX 1

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

Timelines

1 Many proposals are expected to be submitted to this event; the deadlines will be strictly followed. Please submit your proposal by completing the GloLitter Regional Catalogue Data Collection survey found on the OceanLitter website.

- .1 Deadline to submit proposals is **Monday, 20 April 2026**; and
- .2 The OceanLitter Programme Projects Coordination Unit will review proposals, and applicants will be notified of the acceptance by **Monday, 4 May 2026**.

Selection of proposals

2 The OceanLitter Programme Projects Coordination Unit will evaluate presentation proposals based on the following criteria:

- .1 novel approaches, relevance, and topicality;
- .2 informative content: whether technical or scientific; and
- .3 applicability to the developing country context.

3 Priority will be given to applications submitted on time and meeting the eligibility criteria.

Agreement

4 Selected presentation speakers agree to:

- .1 take part in a short virtual briefing session with the moderator;
- .2 supply their PowerPoint presentation at least two weeks before the event; and
- .3 respect the period allotted per presentation.

Participation

5 No sponsorship shall be expected from IMO or FAO. Speakers will be responsible for covering their travel and accommodation expenses, as well as any other costs related to their participation in the event. Those unable to attend in person will have the option to present their work virtually.

