

Foreword

Meeting public expectations of 'clean' recreational beaches is an ongoing challenge for coastal communities. Current management of beach wrack (cf. introduction) is not straightforward and needs a wide-ranging concept that crosses municipal, regional and national boundaries. This special volume of the Rostocker Meeresbiologischen Beiträge aims to provide an overview of the results of the EU Interreg project CONTRA "COnversion of a Nuisance To a Resource and Asset" (2019–2021), funded under the Baltic Sea Region Programme.

Over the course of two years, CONTRA has gathered the knowledge and built the capacity to exploit the potential of using beach wrack for the entire Baltic Sea Region. The environmental, social and economic aspects of different collection and reuse options were investigated and evaluated at national and international levels in five sub-projects and seven case studies. This volume thus provides a comprehensive assessment of all perspectives related to beach wrack removal, and ideas for sustainable options for pollution and nutrient remediation have been put forward. The project consortium comprised of public authorities, businesses, academia and NGOs from six countries (DK, DE, EE, PL, SE, RU) covering marine systems, coastal tourism, sustainable development as well as administrative structures of the Baltic Sea region.

The results of the work are presented in four thematically in-depth analyses, which are divided into the corresponding four chapters of this special volume:



Socioeconomics



Ecology



Technology



Business

Additional reports/documents relating to beach wrack management are available on the project website at <https://www.beachwrack-contr.eu/> including:

- "Tool kit" (covering practical aspects of beach wrack management and provides guidance for local and regional decisions makers)
- **Legal aspects of beach wrack management in the Baltic Sea region**
- **Policy brief "Towards sustainable solutions for beach wrack treatment"**

With the help of this information, we hope that you - coastal authorities, enterprises, researchers - are inspired to adopt beach wrack treatment strategies that are environmentally sound as well as socially and economically worthwhile.

Furthermore, you are invited to join the "Beach Wrack Network" (<https://www.eucc-d.de/beach-wrack-network.html>) founded for the exchange between experts, practitioners, and policy makers about beach wrack issues within the Baltic Sea Region and beyond.

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