

Quick identification of microplastics in sediment samples in the field

1. Locate the strandline along the beach site;
2. Fill half of a clean empty bucket with seawater filtered through a 250 μ m mesh sieve;
3. Identify 4 random sampling points along the strandline;
4. Use the flat metal shovel to collect 500ml of sediment at each point and add to the bucket with seawater;
5. Stir vigorously for 2min and let settle for 5min;
6. Decant the upper layer through the 1 and 250 μ m sieves;
7. Visually identify, count and record plastic fragments >1mm;
8. With a hand lens, identify any microplastics in the 250 μ m sieve, count and record.