



DETAILED DEFINITION OF OCEAN-BOUND PLASTIC

**ZERO
PLASTIC
OCEANS.**

INTRODUCTION

This document is an extract from the OBP Certification Program (document OBP-DEF-GUI) available on the program website (www.obpcert.org) in the document center. It is highly recommended to consult the complete OBP-DEF-GUI document in framework of the preparation for your certification, this document being “for information only”. In case any discrepancies are found between this document and the OBP-DEF-GUI, the later prevails.

OBP is Abandoned Plastic Waste, found in specific locations and/or generated during particular activities. Therefore, this document first presents the definition of Abandoned Plastic Waste and then the definition of Ocean Bound Plastic.

FOUR CATEGORIES OF OBP ARE DEFINED:

WATERWAYS OBP

mismanaged plastic waste
located 200m from rivers



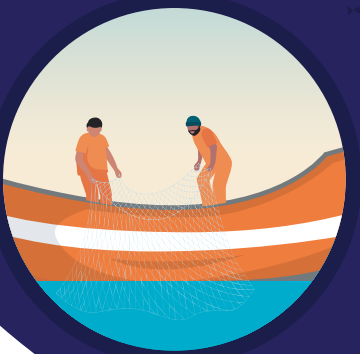
POTENTIAL OBP

mismanaged plastic waste located
within a 50 km distance of the coastline



FISHING MATERIAL

using fishing gears and plastic
by catch



SHORELINE OBP

mismanaged plastic waste
located 200m from shores



1. ABANDONED PLASTIC WASTE

The program's spirit is to avoid plastic waste reaching the ocean by collecting real Ocean Bound Plastic. The program targets **Abandoned Plastic Waste in urban or natural areas**. It also includes **the plastic waste that will become abandoned** if it is not collected by a Recycling program or by segregation at source.

Abandoned Plastic Waste refers to **plastic waste that is inappropriately disposed or littered**, and municipal or private collection services will not collect it.

IT INCLUDES:

- Plastic waste in urbanized areas without waste collection or with Inadequate Waste Collection.
- Plastic waste in natural areas, either littered or that has made its way to the environment due to rain, winds, currents or river flows.
- Source segregation (collection from homes) or voluntary recycling programs, only in districts/cities without waste collection or with Inadequate Waste Collection.
- Plastic waste collected in Unmanaged Dumpsites.
- Plastic waste collected in Managed Dumpsites, only if the configuration of the Managed Dumpsite is such that Plastic waste is clearly reaching the oceans because Plastic waste is directly leaking into rivers or the ocean.
- Fishing nets, ropes, buoys, fish boxes, and any plastic waste generated and collected as by-catch on fishing boats.

By offering fishers - or fleet operators an incentive, this waste can be recovered through dedicated waste management programs to avoid being thrown at sea or abandoned on banks or shores. The incentive could be financial (payment for the plastic waste, lower disposal costs, reduced port fees) or of other nature (improved services, preferred access etc).

IT EXCLUDES:

- Plastic waste fluxes that are coming from the public or private operator in charge of performing the public collection service.
- Plastic waste from source segregation (curbside collection or voluntary disposal into recycling stations - for example recycle bins in front of a supermarket) in districts/cities where waste collection is adequate.
- Plastic waste purchased from Independent Collectors or collected by the Organization in districts where there is no evidence of Inadequate Waste Collection.
- Plastic waste that has been collected from a sorting center or a Managed Landfill or a Managed Dumpsite.

EXAMPLES OF PLASTIC WASTE SOURCES EXCLUDED FROM THE OBP PROGRAM:

**Voluntary disposal /
Recycling station**



Sorting centers



**Well collected
areas**



**Properly Managed
Landfills**



Managed Dumpsites*

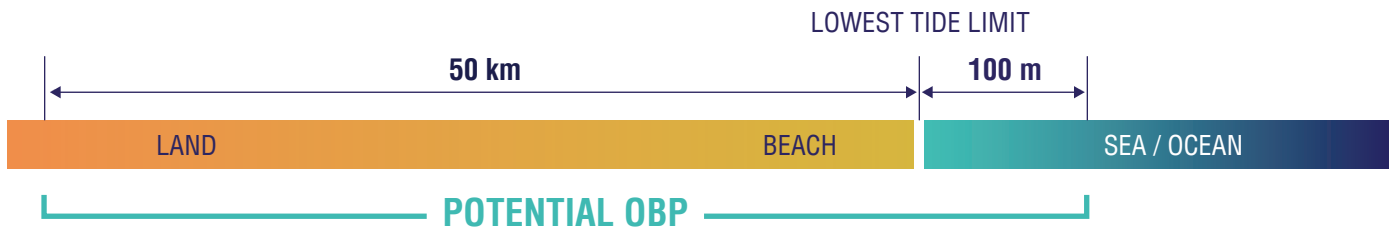
*Collection in Managed Dumpsites is excluded on the basis that Plastic present in Managed Dumpsites has effectively been collected and transported to the Managed Dumpsite and is not at risk of reaching rivers or oceans (unless leaking is evidenced as detailed on page 5).

2. OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC (OBP)

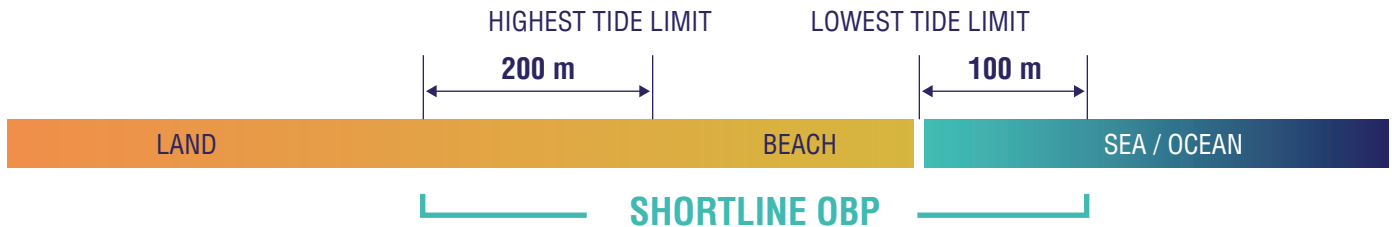
OBP is defined as **Abandoned Plastic Waste that will eventually end up discharged in the ocean by the effect of winds, rainfall, river flow or tides**. There is no limitation of size, micro, mezzo and macroplastic collection models are acceptable provided they target OBP.

More specifically Ocean Bound Plastic is divided in four categories (OBP Categories)*:

1. POTENTIAL OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC: Abandoned Plastic Waste located within the range of 50km from shore.



2. SHORELINE OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC: Abandoned Plastic Waste found within 200m from the highest tide limit towards the land and 100m from the lowest tide limit towards the sea.



3. WATERWAYS OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC: Abandoned Plastic Waste located within a river stream or within a distance of 200m from both sides of the river stream.



4. FISHING MATERIAL OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC: Abandoned Plastic Waste collected by projects that incentivize fishermen to bring back to shore and/or not discard at sea their own Plastic waste or third-party Plastic waste collected involuntarily during fishing activities as bycatch.

*This reference is taken from the publication by Jenna Jambeck et al. in an article in Science published on 13 Feb 2015.

This distance may evolve as new Scientific Publications further define Ocean Bound Plastic.

EXAMPLES OF PLASTIC WASTE SOURCES INCLUDED IN THE OBP PROGRAM

Abandoned Plastic Waste should be preferably collected in populated areas with no waste collection or Inadequate Waste Collection, as close as possible to rivers or shore or during environmental cleaning operations.

A- SITES WITHOUT WASTE COLLECTION



The target areas have an unmistakable problem with waste collection and the risk of flowing to the ocean is obvious.

Collection at source (home) or through recycling points in such an area is acceptable as there is no waste collection and the river, the street or green areas are used as dumpsites.

B- SITES WITH INADEQUATE WASTE COLLECTION



Despite the presence of some **garbage collection infrastructure**, it is clear it is inefficient, usually because of infrequent collection causing overflowing and OBP generation.

C- PLASTIC WASTE LITTERED IN THE ENVIRONMENT



Naturally Potential OBP can be collected in areas where waste is not collected or inadequately collected within 50Km from shore as per the definitions, but the spirit of the program remains to have a positive impact on the ocean and trying to work as close as possible to shores and rivers is a best practice to encourage.

D- PLASTIC WASTE RELATED TO THE FISHING INDUSTRY



Material recovered through programs dedicated to collecting fishing gears (for eg nets, buoys, ropes...) from fishermen in ports is also accepted as Abandoned Plastic Waste to prevent that this waste is thrown at sea or abandoned on banks or shores.

Any plastic material that is recovered by fishermen while fishing and brought back to shore instead of throwing them back at sea is also considered as Abandoned Plastic Waste.

E- UNMANAGED DUMPSITES & MANAGED DUMPSITES ADJACENT TO SHORES OR RIVERS



Plastic waste collected in Unmanaged Dumpsites is accepted as Abandoned Plastic Waste.

Plastic waste collected in Managed Dumpsites is excluded from the OBP Program unless the leaking of plastic waste from the Managed Dumpsite, into a river flowing to the ocean or directly into the ocean, is obvious.

NOTES

- The definitions for **Shoreline OBP** and **Potential OBP** are based on the lowest tide limits and highest tide limits. The organization can use documentary evidence like pictures or visible evidence like deposit lines on the beach to justify the limits.
- For **Shoreline and Waterways OBP**, exception to the 200m distance rule can be accepted by the auditor if the collection Organization can reasonably demonstrate that, due to particular conditions of the site (rainfall, winds, inclination), Abandoned Plastic Waste is carried away to rivers or seas from a greater distance.
- For **Waterways OBP**, the definition is based on the riverbed limits. In countries with a seasonal variation of this riverbed, the largest extend of the riverbed will be considered to start counting the 200m limit on both banks. However, exceptional flood events will not be considered to determine the limits used.
- The organization can use documentary evidence like pictures or visible evidence like deposit lines on each bank to justify the limits used. Given the difficulties of precisely determining these limits in case of seasonal variations, the auditor will accept evidence demonstrating limits positions with a tolerance of +/-50m.
- **Waterways OBP** can be collected further away than 50km from coasts as long as the river is directly or indirectly through its main stem, reaching the ocean at the end of its course.
- **Fishing Material OBP** shall be received from fishermen at ports or on sites on the coast or a riverbank. For riverbanks, it should be on the bank of a river that flows directly or indirectly through its main stem to the ocean.



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