

No Time to Waste: Tackling Submerged Munitions in European Seas

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Research Vessel METEOR, Port of Nice, UNOC 3

Factsheet #7 How to Engage, Share Knowledge and Boost Solutions

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Munitions dumped at sea continue to pose serious environmental, safety and socio-economic risks across Europe's seas. Over the past 15 years, more than 30 research projects have generated valuable insights into the scale and nature of this challenge.

Now, the field is entering a new phase: information is being centralised, coordination between initiatives is strengthening, and momentum is growing. This creates an unprecedented opportunity for collaborative, efficient, and impactful action.

Further progress depends on engaging new stakeholders and integrating fresh perspectives. This factsheet provides guidance on how you can get involved, access shared resources, raise awareness and contribute to real solutions.

Why act now?

A Turning Point for Visibility and Coordination

European efforts are gaining momentum: in its **European Oceans Pact** the EU announces UXO removal strategies for the North, Baltic, and Black Seas, signaling strong political will. **Germany's Immediate Action Programme** provides a practical blueprint for systematic remediation. These initiatives have the potential to align closely with global processes and inspire action beyond Europe. At the same time, **maritime security is rising on the UN agenda**, with a Security Council high-level debate and UNIDIR designating it as a new research area. Furthermore, the UN Decade of **Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** provides a unifying framework for science-based solutions.

This unique convergence of regional leadership, global visibility, and growing policy engagement presents a critical opportunity. Now is the time for actors worldwide to connect, contribute, and drive lasting change.

1. Get informed and contribute knowledge to the Munitions Portal

The European research community, working under the umbrella of Munitions in the Sea, stands ready to transfer knowledge and collaborate on the growing threat of underwater munitions. While scientists remain the driving force, the community now includes strong ties with industry, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) services, coast and border guards, the military, and policymakers. These stakeholders address all types of submerged munitions, both conventional and chemical, as well as sunken wrecks.

To provide an authoritative overview of this field, **JPI Oceans has developed the JPI Oceans Knowledge Portal Munitions in the Sea** (briefly, the 'JPI Oceans Munitions Portal' at munitionsinthesea.eu). This central hub consolidates studies, stakeholders, and projects, offering structured insights into mapping, risk assessment, and remediation to support informed decision-making.

Coordinated by JPI Oceans, hosted by Fraunhofer ICT, and authored by experts, the portal is central to advancing joint mitigation efforts. To showcase the various aspects of marine munition management and further develop the portal, content contributions are warmly welcomed. A central repository for publications on munitions in the sea is currently being established, and suggestions for relevant entries are likewise encouraged.

Get in touch with: knowledge-munition@jpi-oceans.eu
Link: www.munitionsinthesea.eu



ORGANISERS:



SUPPORTING PARTNERS:



2. Join the discourse on social media

To encourage broad community engagement and keep stakeholders informed about project developments and the wider discourse, communication efforts are becoming more streamlined, including the launch of a unified social media presence.

Join the discourse by:

- Sharing knowledge with the LinkedIn group “Forum: Munitions in the Sea” – a space for collaboration, exchange, and discussion among all interested in the topic
- Following #MunitionsInTheSea and the LinkedIn page “Munitions in the Sea” – for news, events, and key updates

3. Share your insights with ongoing projects



The three EU-funded sister projects, MMinE-SwEEPER, MUNI-RISK, and MUNI-MAP, have joined forces in their stakeholder outreach and are actively seeking input from diverse stakeholders. We invite you to take part in the questionnaire, which aims to gather insights into the needs, concerns, and limitations faced by public and private sectors regarding marine munition management.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J2TZRQG>

4. Connect with Munitions in the Sea Projectss

BaltWreck: Preventing massive marine waters chemical pollution from the leaking wrecks and munition / weapon dumps in the south Baltic

Funding: Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027

Duration: 7/2024 - 6/2027

<https://www.imp.gda.pl/en/projects/interreg-programmes/baltwreck/>

BorDEx: Development and construction of a mobile demonstrator for the thermal disposal of explosives from coastal dumped munitions

Funding: former German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Duration: 2024 - 06/2027

<https://bordex.de/>

Conmar II: Concept for conventional Marine munition Remediation in the German North and Baltic Sea

Funding: sustainMare “Protection and sustainable use of marine areas”, funded by the former German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Duration: 12/2024 - 11/2027

<https://conmar-munition.eu/>

CleanSeas: New robotic manipulation techniques and AI algorithms for the precise handling of objects in the sea using the example of ammunition dumps / UXO

Funding: former German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Duration: 01/2023 - 12/2025

<https://robotik.dfki-bremen.de/en/research/projects/cleanseas>

EROVMUS: Enhanced Remote Operated Vehicle interface for Munition Studies

Funding: ERA-NET Cofund MarTERA

Duration: 07/2022 - 06/2025

<https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information/networks/martera/martera-call-2021/enhanced-remote-operated-vehicle-interface-for-munition-studies>

IRAV: Industrial clearance of hazardous waste from dumping sites at sea

Funding: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany

Duration: 6/2023 - 11/2025

<https://www.iwes.fraunhofer.de/en/research-projects/current-projects/irav.html>

MMinE-SwEEPER: Marine Munition in Europe - Solutions with Economic and Ecological Profits for Efficient Remediation

Funding: Horizon Europe

Duration: 10/2024 - 03/2028

<https://mminesweeper-munition.eu/>

MUNIMAP: Baltic Sea Munitions Remediation Roadmap

Funding: Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2027

Duration: 3/2024-2/2027

<https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/munimap/>

MUNI-RISK: Mitigation of Risks due to submerged munitions for a sustainable development of the Baltic Sea

Funding: European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

Duration: 11/2024 - 10/2027

<https://muni-risk.eu/>

Starting soon:

REMARCO: Remediation, Management, Monitoring and Cooperation addressing North Sea UXO

Funding: Interreg North Sea Region Programme 2021-2027

Duration: 07/2023 - 06/2027

www.interregnorthsea.eu/remarco/about-us

CAMMera: Clearance Activities for Marine Munition through Efficient Remediation Approaches

Funding: Horizon Europe

Duration: 07/2025- 06/2028



Representatives of the projects BaltWreck, MMinE-SwEEPER, MUNIMAP, MUNI-RISK, CONMAR II, and EROVMUS at the BlueMission BANOS Arena in Sopot, Poland in April 2025