

## **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Closing the loop

*Putting the EU Plastics Strategy into practice*

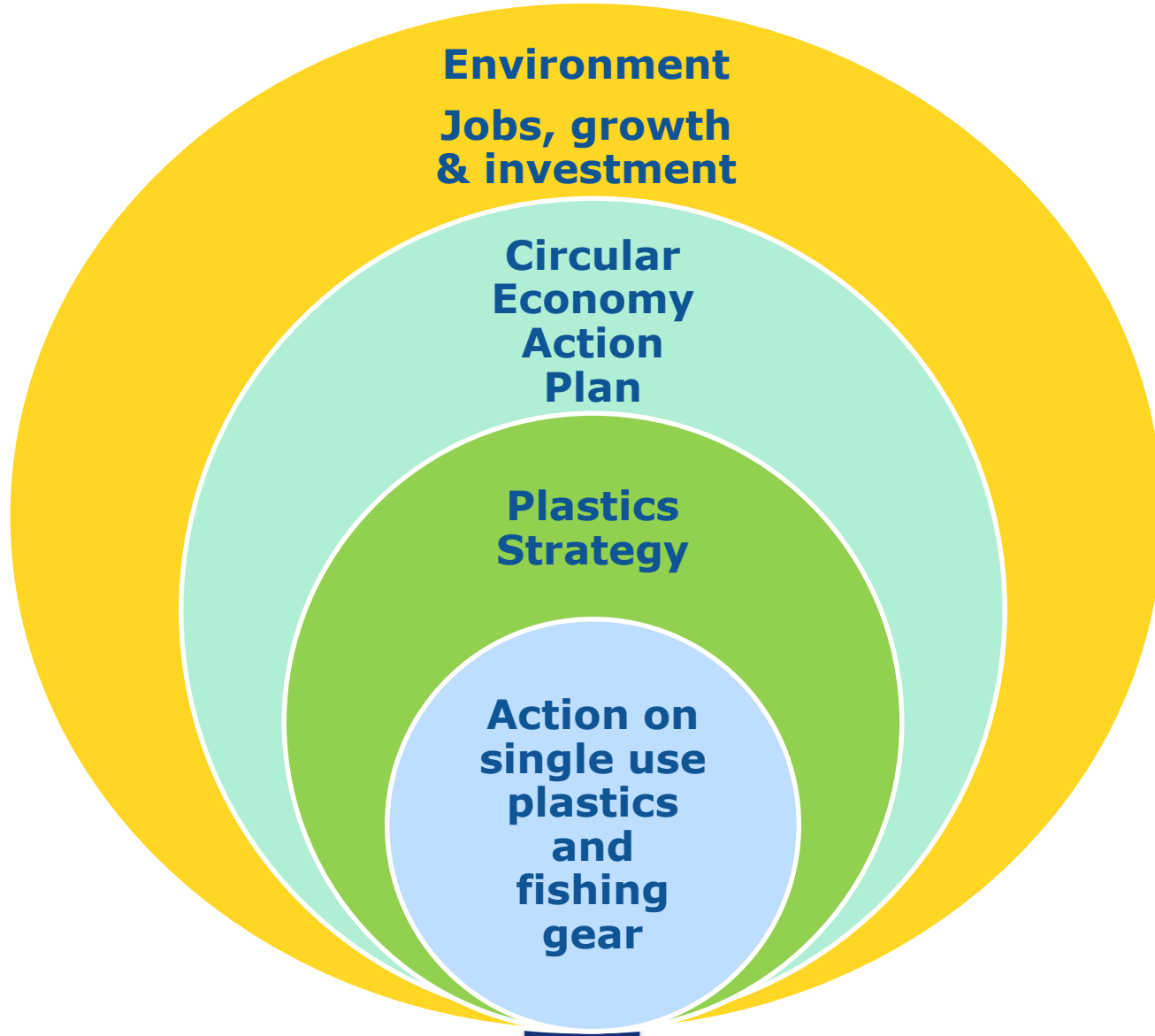
CIRCULAR ECONOMY

# ***Proposal for Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment***

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European  
Commission



# Marine litter: the challenge



Health concerns



Degradation of marine ecosystems (13 billion Euros a year)



Impact on fisheries and aquaculture (1-5% of total fleet revenue) and ports/shipping



Tourism and coastal communities ( $\approx$  630 million euros)



## ***Commitments in the Plastics Strategy***



"A legislative initiative on single-use plastics at EU level still to be tabled by this Commission"



"Approach used for light-weight plastic bags"



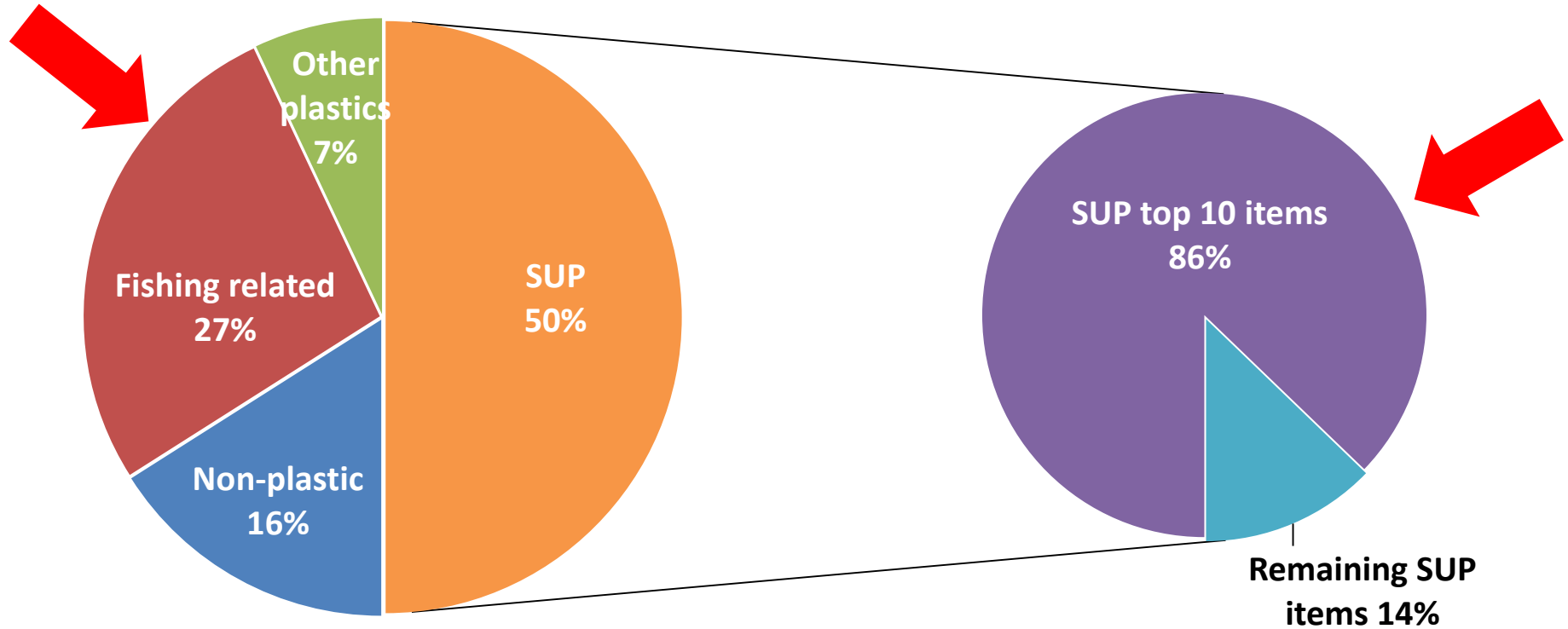
"The Commission will also develop targeted measures for reducing the loss or abandonment of fishing gear at sea"

# Objective



- Curb the **negative economic and environmental impacts** arising from littering of **single use plastics** and from **abandoned fishing gear**
- **Significant reduction** of littering while creating economic opportunities and protecting the environment

## Most found marine litter items on European beaches



- 70% covered of all marine litter: top 10 SUP (43%) + fishing gear (27%)
- Source:
  - Joint Research Center - European Regional Seas Conventions
  - Marine Strategy Framework Directive

## ***! NOT against plastics***



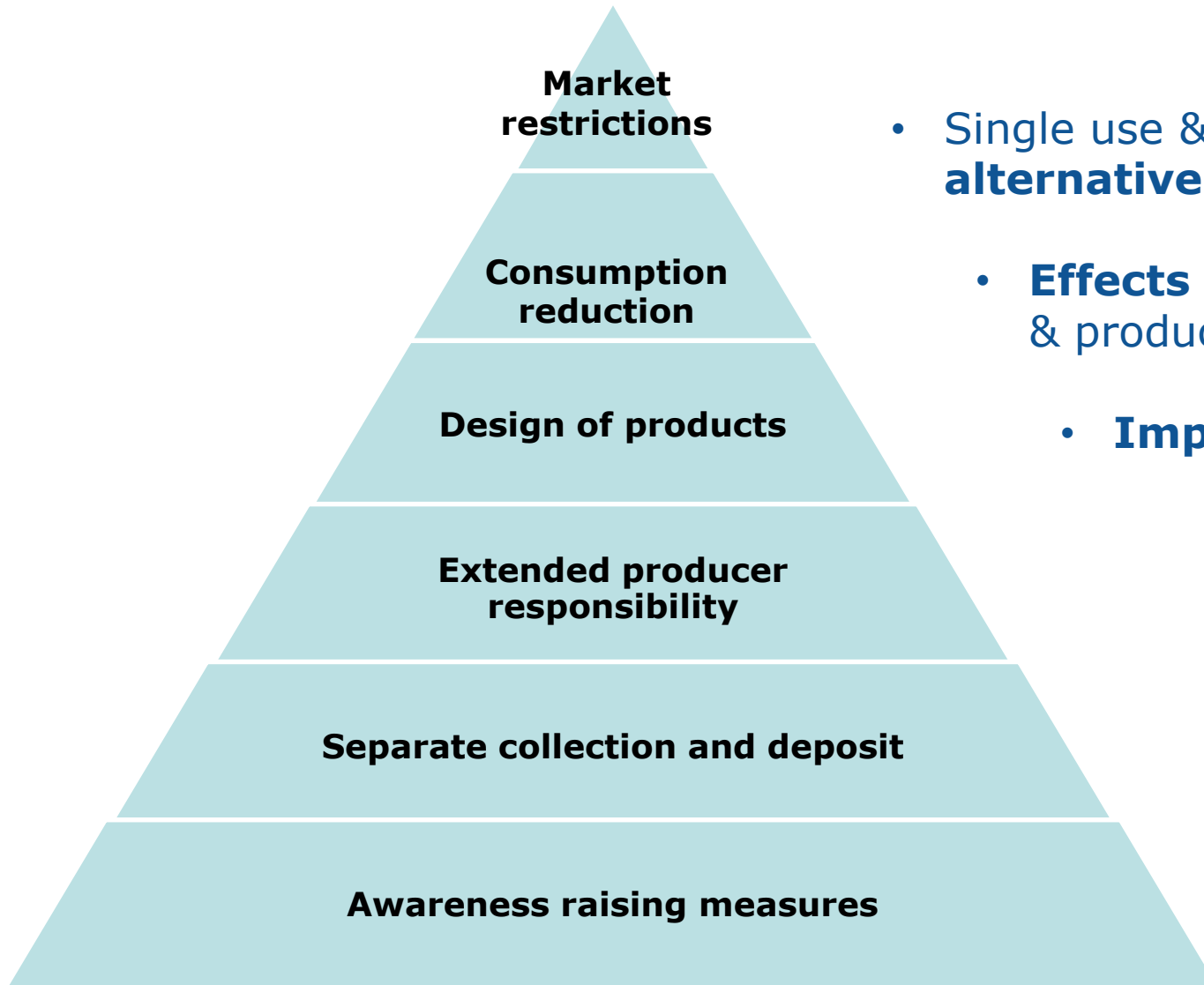
Measures to facilitate **prevention, re-use, collection and recovery** of:

- single-use items that are wholly or partially made of plastics, which are major contributors to marine litter
- fishing gear wholly or partially made of plastics



Definition of plastic: Polymer as defined in REACH with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified

# Criteria for selecting measures




- Single use & multi use **alternatives**
- **Effects** on consumers & producers
- **Implementation**



## Separate collection

- 
- **90% separate collection target** for plastic beverage bottles  
How? inter alia, by Deposit Refund Systems and targets for EPR

 → by 2025

- Supporting high quality recyclates and uptake of secondary raw materials

## Extended producer responsibility



- Single-use plastic products (that are not subject to market ban) and fishing gear



- Financial responsibility of producers
  - collection and subsequent treatment of waste  
*(existing obligation for packaging)*
  - clean-up of litter
  - awareness raising *(existing obligation for packaging)*



- Consistent and building on the minimum requirements for EPR schemes as in the Waste Framework Directive
- Member States to establish specific EPR scheme objectives, including the level of ambition for clean-up activities

## *Fishing gear – need for action*



**ALDFG (abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear) represents around 27% of marine litter items: equivalent of over 11,000 tons per year**



**not single use, it is supposed to be durable in the marine and has no alternatives**



**high recycling potential – but the current recycling market is rather small and much localised**



**complementarity and coherence with EU legislation, Plastic Strategy and parallel COM proposals (Fisheries Control Regulation; Port reception facilities directive)**

EPR

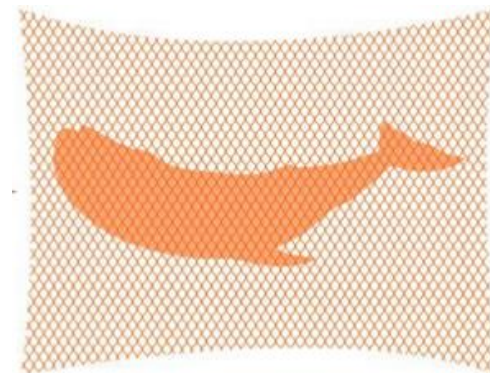
**Proposed measure:**  
**EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY for**  
**producers of fishing gear containing plastics**

→ **Improve the circularity of fishing gear:**

- maximise collection
- facilitate re-use
- support high quality recycling

→ **Producers will cover the costs of:**

- collection, transport, treatment
- awareness raising measures



## Port Reception Facilities directive

- currently under revision
- complementarity with our SUP proposal

### Requirements:

- MS should set up adequate port reception facilities
- requirement on all ships, including fishing vessels and recreational craft, to deliver all their waste before departure
- introduction of **100 % indirect fee**
- **passively fished waste** included in the scope

EPR schemes for fishing gear should support the proposed indirect fee system – help avoid any increase in the fee and ensure a right of delivery.

## *Examples of projects related to marine litter*



**Interreg**





***Learn more about this Directive, the plastics strategy and the circular economy:***

***[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)***