



Masterarbeit

Thema: Meso- and Microplastic Emissions along the German Baltic Sea Coast

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Abstract / Conclusion

This thesis can give an overview of the spatial distribution of potential MMP emission sources in the BSCA. While the results should be applied carefully and calculations should be updated as new scientific knowledge is available, it can give an idea on areas that might be interesting for future research. Calculating a definite number of emissions for a particular period of time is, with scientific knowledge and data available right now, not possible. Following the path of microplastics from emission sources to their final destination in the environment is difficult. Measuring emissions directly at the source, for example in the effluent of a WWTP is feasible. Measuring MMP once they entered the environment can only ever give a snapshot of current conditions.

Instead of looking for MMP like a needle in a haystack, it might be easier to determine how much plastic enters the system in the first place. Consequently it can be determined how much plastic entered the environment already. On that basis, when MMP is found it can be assessed whether the amount found is significant or whether it is just a negligible fraction and the whereabouts of the majority of plastic particles in the Baltic Sea is unknown.

With the approach over spatial distribution of emission sources, this thesis hopefully can support future research on the field of MMP emissions and give a picture of the situation of potential sources in the BSCA.

Only if the whole picture of MMP emissions is known, the effects on the environment can be detected and methods of counteraction can be developed.