

Abstract:

Today's oceans contain 26-66 million tons of waste, with approximately 94% located on the seafloor. SeaClear — short for SEarch, identificAtion and Collection of marine Litter with Autonomous Robots — is a Horizon 2020 funded project that aims at automating the process of searching, identifying, and collecting marine litter, using a team of autonomous robots that work collaboratively. Following the success of the Horizon 2020 SeaClear project, SeaClear 2.0 (Scalable Full-cycle Marine Litter Remediation in the Mediterranean: Robotic and Participatory Solutions) will go beyond the technological innovation of the previous SeaClear project. SeaClear 2.0 is an integral part of the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters", aiming to protect and clean up our seas and waterways through applied research and innovation and citizen participation, hoping to catalyse investments from the Blue sector. The project will integrate cutting-edge technologies into a comprehensive approach that engages communities in finding solutions to marine litter pollution, increases waste value, and contributes to science-based policy making.