GEOMAR
Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

GEOMAR | Wischhofstr 1-3 | 24148 Kiel | Germany

Jana-Sophie Appelt/ Aaron Beck

Phone +49 431 600-1995
Phone +49 431 600-1289
jappelt@geomar.de
ajbeck@geomar.de

Dear Colleagues,

The global ocean is widely contaminated with munitions, although awareness of this environmental threat remains limited. Our research over recent years has shown significant spread of chemical contamination from aging explosives in the German Baltic Sea, highlighting the environmental relevance of this issue[1]. As part of the newly-started EU Horizon project "MMinE-SwEEPER"[2], we want to extend this focus and conduct an EU-wide survey of dissolved munition chemicals (MC) in coastal waters, including Mediterranean, Northeast Atlantic, Black Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea, and Arctic.

We are looking for collaborators throughout the EU who can collect marine water samples for MC analysis during ongoing or planned fieldwork. For this purpose, we have developed standalone sampling kits that allow for simple extraction of dissolved MC using solid-phase-extraction (SPE) columns. The sampling procedure is straightforward and does not require any special tools or prior training. Each kit comes fully equipped with all necessary materials for collecting up to 25 samples. All logistical aspects – including shipping costs for the return of the samples – are taken care of, and the kits will be provided at no cost to you. The samples will be analysed in our laboratories at GEOMAR using advanced mass spectrometry. If possible, we would like to receive any samples by March 2026.

Through this collaborative effort, we aim to map regional contamination patterns and support risk assessments. We are happy to share the analytical results with all contributing partners.

Please feel free to forward this letter to colleagues who might be interested in collecting samples in other areas than your own!

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Helmholtz Centre for
Ocean Research Kiel

Wischhofstr. 1-3
24148 Kiel | Germany

Phone +49 431 600-0
Fax +49 431 600-2805
www.geomar.de

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[1] 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2025.144115
[2] mminesweeper-munition.eu/