

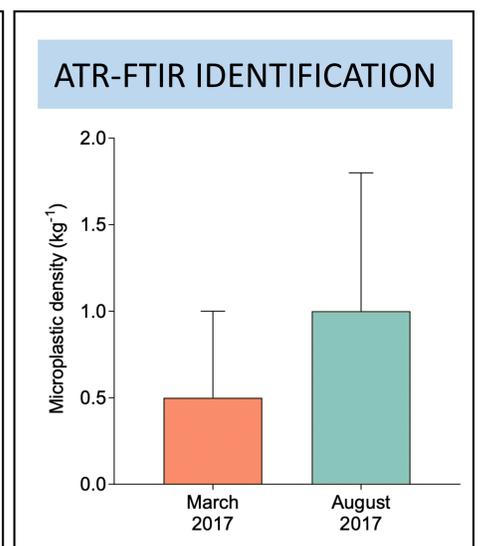
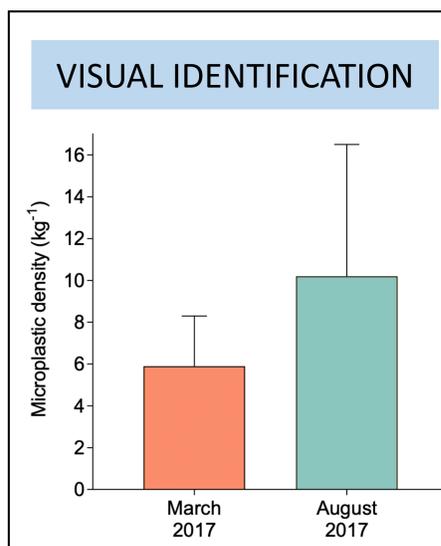
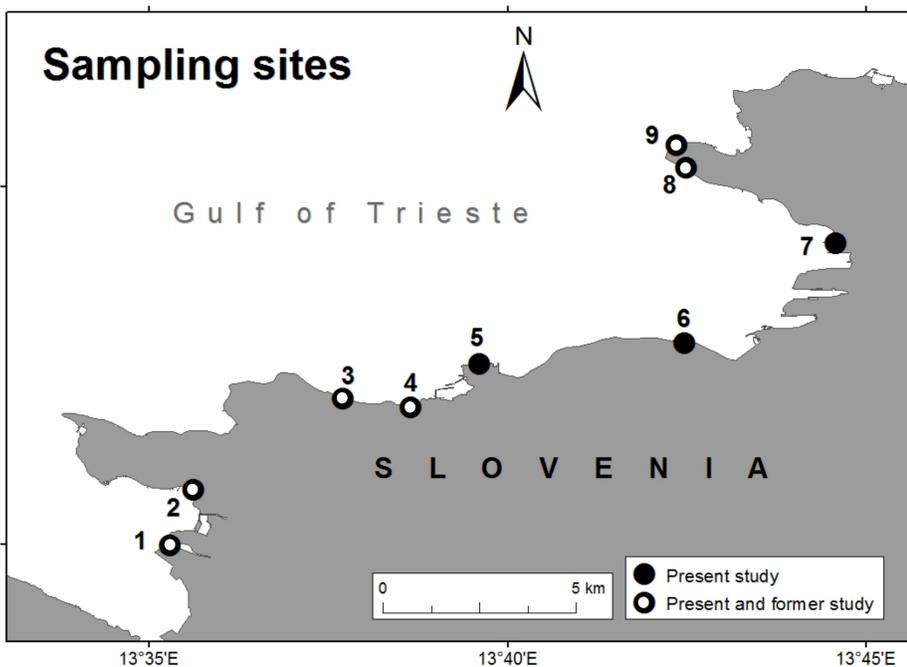


# Microplastics at Slovenian beaches: study repeated

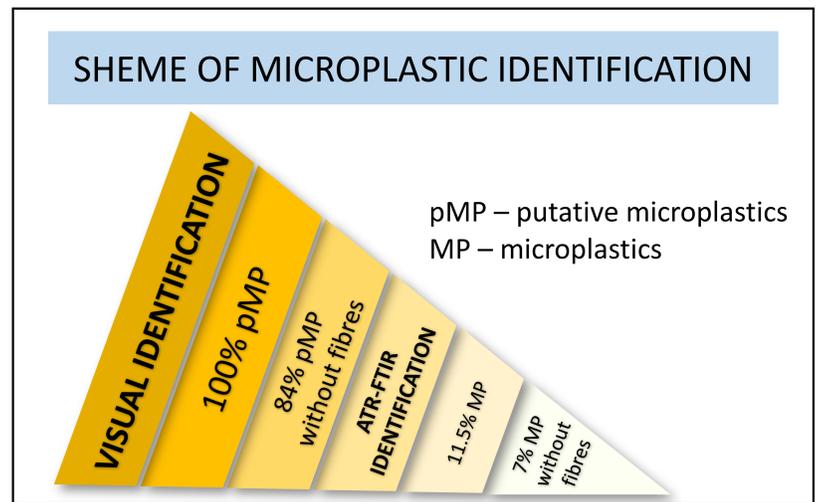
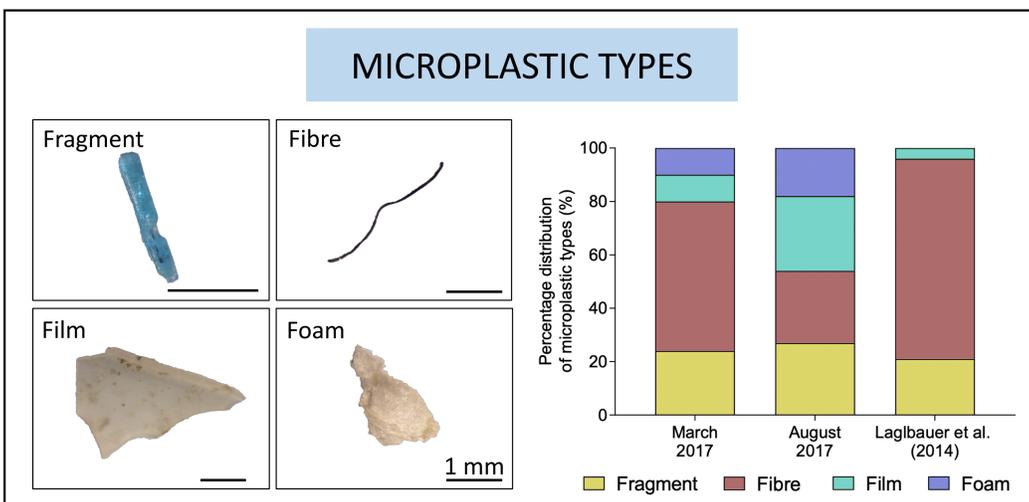
## Introduction

Pollution by microplastics is a raising environmental, social, and public health concern. Whilst the numbers of reports on plastic litter and microplastic dispersion are constantly increasing, only little is known about temporal dynamics and trends of microplastic contamination of beaches that are publicly accessible and, thus, most strongly affected by human activities. This study repeats a former work on the occurrence, distribution, and composition of microplastics at Slovenian beaches (Laglbauer et al. 2014).

## Results



177.8 MP kg<sup>-1</sup> in July 2012 (Laglbauer et al. 2014)



## Conclusions

Number of microplastics is **strongly overestimated** by sole **visual identification** without proper polymer confirmation.

Considerably **less** secondary **microplastic** particles were found after 5 years, primary microplastics were absent.

Microplastic concentrations were higher in **summer** than in late winter.

**Aquaculture** and **tourism** seem to be the major discharger at Slovenian beaches based on the microplastic features.

Investigations on the dynamics of microplastic contamination are essential for a **reliable risk assessment**.

## Methods

