

## S-360 – Case Study: Marine Plastic Pollution

❑SDG 14- “Life below water” - setting out targets for the conservation and sustainable use of the World’s oceans, including reducing pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities

❑Plastic industry’s own initiative (Operation Clean Sweep) acknowledged but general consensus that there was room for improvement



### ❑ Investors own

- ❑retailers who use plastics for packaging;
- ❑chemical companies who manufacture plastics;
- ❑logistics companies who transport pre-production plastics

### REMOVING PLASTIC POLLUTION FROM YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN:

A GUIDE TO TACKLING PELLET LOSS

#### WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

The raw materials used to make plastic products are microplastics in different forms – sometimes pellets, sometimes flakes or powders. When they're handled irresponsibly, they can reach drains, rivers and the sea. Once there, they're eaten by seabirds and other species, harming their breeding and feeding.



#### WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?



All companies handling raw plastic materials – from production through logistics to conversion into products – can prevent losses by implementing pellet management guidelines, known as Operation Clean Sweep, which outline simple pellet spill prevention and containment measures.

#### WHAT CAN I DO?

As a brand that uses plastic – it might be the products you make or plastic packaging – you can play a role in reducing this source of litter. With Fauna & Flora International's guide to ensuring application of good pellet management across the plastics supply chain, you can reduce your pollution footprint.



#### KEY FACTS

279 pellets have been found in the stomach of a single fulmar

Pellets can carry a medium to high level of bacteria

The USA alone produces ~2.5 quadrillion pellets every year

Polystyrene in Europe is estimated at 1.2 billion pellets per year

It is the greatest danger to seabirds from plastic

On some European beaches, studies have found 2 pellets per 100m<sup>2</sup>

Known hotspots include estuaries in Scotland, France, Netherlands and Norway

It takes around 500-1,000 pellets to make a plastic water bottle