

This is my translation of the figures for litter collection in Akerselva River. The composition of litter will vary from place to place. Akerselva is definitely not the «nicest» place in Oslo. A lot of the city drug addicted is frequenting this area, hence making the amount of drug related items substantial. In addition to the collected littering items, you will also find a substantial fraction of natural organic matter collected by the TrashTrawl. Also this will vary from river to river, depending on nearby vegetation and river characteristics.

Materials

The waste from the picking analysis clearly shows that the littering in the Akerselva is related to the activity along the river. This is a frequently used recreational area with varied activity and use: jogging, walking, dog walking, barbecuing and swimming. In addition, the picking analysis shows that a significant proportion of the litter is related to drug abuse. The results also show that the largest part of the litter collected in TrashTrawl consisted of various plastic materials (78%).

If we link the litter objects to sources, we see that it is tobacco-related products, drug-related objects and "on the go" litter that dominate.

Sources

61% of the litter items could be identified as a source, of which the clearly largest sources in number were tobacco-related products, drug-related items and "on the go" litter (Figure 2). Of these, tobacco-related products dominated in number (24%). The second largest source was user equipment for narcotics and included syringes with and without tips and their packaging, as well as packaging of drugs and detergents (Figure 2).

Items such as food packaging, disposable tableware and drinking bottles with and without a deposit are included in the category «on the go», and constituted the third largest source (Figure 2). Bags accounted for a small proportion of the number of items (3%), and included plastic carrier nets, fruit bags, dog bags and ziplock bags. 42% of the bags were plastic carrier nets. The rest of the rubbish was unidentifiable (24%), or rubbish categorised as "other" (15%) (Figure 2).

Of the 3030 objects counted in the entire analysis, 193 syringe parts with and without tips were found, where it represented almost 6.4% of all findings in the entire analysis. In the category of drug-related objects, «part of syringe with tip» accounted for 15% of the number of objects found, while «part of syringe without tip» represented 27%. Detergents (sterilized water, cleaning wipes) accounted for 21% and syringe packaging 20% of the findings measured in number within the source category, while packaging for drugs (zippos / plastic foil) accounted for 17%.

In the category «Tobacco and snuff», cigarette butts dominated (65%), while snuff bags accounted for a smaller proportion of the finds (2%). Smoke packs and smoke pack foil

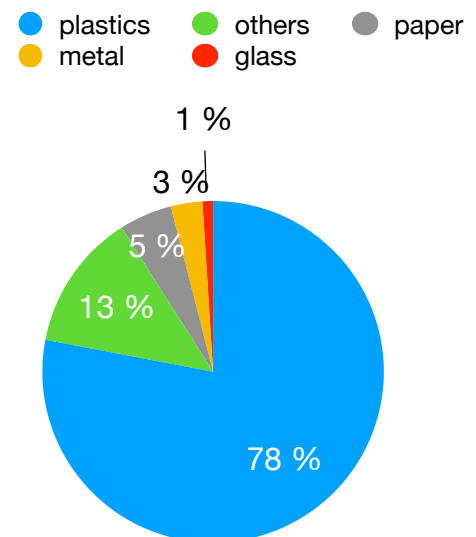


Figure 1: Percentage of material distribution measured in the number of objects, divided into five different material categories

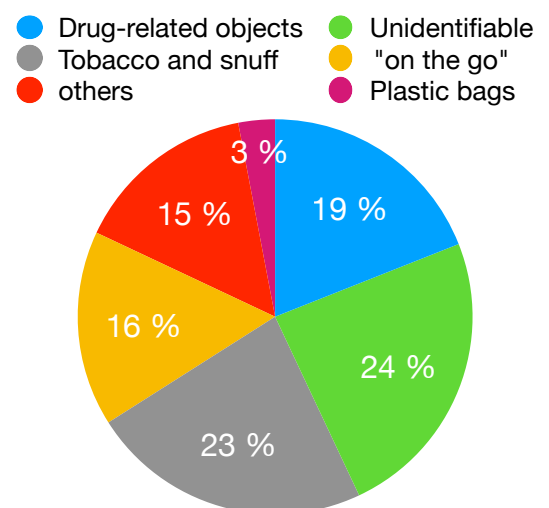


Figure 2: Percentage distribution measured in number of units, within the six different source categories.

accounted for 28%, while snuff boxes accounted for 5% of the findings in the category «Tobacco and snuff»

In the source category «on the go», packaging (82%) dominated over disposable tableware (18%) (Figure 12). Of disposable tableware, 42% consisted of cups, 21% were food containers in Styrofoam, while the remaining were plates / cups (15%), cutlery (12%) and straws (10%).

Under packaging, bottles dominated, especially aluminum cans and bottles that had contained alcohol (23% aluminum cans and 5% bottles), as well as soda and water bottles (17%). Of food packaging, most was packaging related to chocolate, ice cream and sweets (15%), followed by biscuits, chips and yoghurt (8%) and food packaging that is most often found in the home of the type sausages, cheese and bread. The latter may also be associated with barbecues and park life along the river, and therefore included in the source category "on the go." Some finds of corks and parts of corks were also made, but these were not determined in more detail for the type of drink.

The ten articles that occurred most frequently during the picking analysis accounted for 70 per cent of all findings in number . Most were unidentifiable pieces of plastic, while cigarette butts were the second largest contributor (15%). Styrofoam, both EPS and XPS, represented 7% of the findings. Four drug-related objects (syringe without tip, detergents, syringe packaging and drug packaging) accounted for a total of 16% of the findings. Other top 10 items were smoke packing foil, "other" (this included, for example, pens, plasters, markers, seat pads and the like) and food packaging for chocolate, ice cream and sweets (Table 5).

Summing up:

The analysis shows, wind strength, water flow and water level have varied in the different time periods in which TrashTrawl has been out. In the first analysis, no dates were logged for when the trawl bag was set out and taken in. Subject to the fact that data from the different time periods are not directly comparable as there are few data points and it varied between the three analyses how long the bags stood out, one sees some differences in the dominant source. Tobacco and snuff-related objects dominated most in April (40%), and less in May / June (25%) and July / August (12%). There was a larger proportion of drug-related objects in the summer months, compared with April. There was less variation of "on the go" objects and bags between the analysis times. Several objects were found under "other" and unidentifiable objects in July / August, compared with the other periods.