**Micro-plastic Litter in the Marine Environment:**

**sources, sinks, effects and impacts**

We would like to welcome you to our workshop on micro-plastic litter in the marine environment – so please join us on Thursday 29th August at the Heriot Watt Conference Centre in Edinburgh.

Globally we are producing and using more plastics year after year. It’s light, cheap and virtually indestructible. In the marine environment it is potentially a serious problem. Plastic litter harms wildlife by entanglement and ingestion. It also degrades into smaller and smaller fragments. Research into the effects and impacts of micro-plastics is increasing but as yet we still do not know enough. Do micro-plastics accumulate on Scotland’s shorelines? Are there concentrations in the water column? Do micro-plastics transport persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals. What methods should we use to monitor and study micro-plastics? New technologies…………….

This workshop is intended primarily to bring together people interested in micro-plastic litter in the marine environment but if time is available any marine litter topic is welcome. Please come along and join us – bring your questions and your knowledge.

Organiser Dr. Marie Russell Marine Scotland Science, Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen.

**Draft Agenda**

9:30 Welcome and introduction

9:45 **David Mallon** (Scottish Government) Scotland’s Marine Litter Strategy

10:15 **Dr. Sue Kinsey** (Marine Conservation Society) Marine Litter

11:00 Coffee and networking

11:30 **Ewelina Agnieszka Zajac** (Glasgow University) Prevalence, Distribution and Characterisation of Micro-plastics in Firth of Clyde Sediments

11:50 Open forum on research methods

12:30-13:45 Lunch

13:45 Sources, sinks, effects, impacts – delegates split into teams and discuss

14:30 Outcome of discussions – do we know enough, what needs to be done

15:00 Coffee and networking

15:30 Summary of the day and the way forward

16:00 Close of workshop