

14.6 Comparison of sampling efforts across marine environs

With regard to the sampling of plastics in different parts of the marine environment, shoreline sampling is the most common and the only environ that has been covered in every country (Figure 1.2.14.11). Investigations on marine plastics typically start off with beach sampling and later develop with the sampling of other environs.

The next most common sampling environ is marine biota. Quantifying the amount of plastics in or on marine organisms may be opportunistic, depending on beached marine organisms' carcasses. However, it may gain momentum if the research focus centres on bioaccumulation or toxicity of plastics in marine organisms with its potential to impact human health.

Sampling efforts of plastics in the water column and on or in the seabed are the least common. In the ASEAN, Indonesia and Malaysia are the only states to have some published articles on such studies. This clearly denotes a gap in understanding.

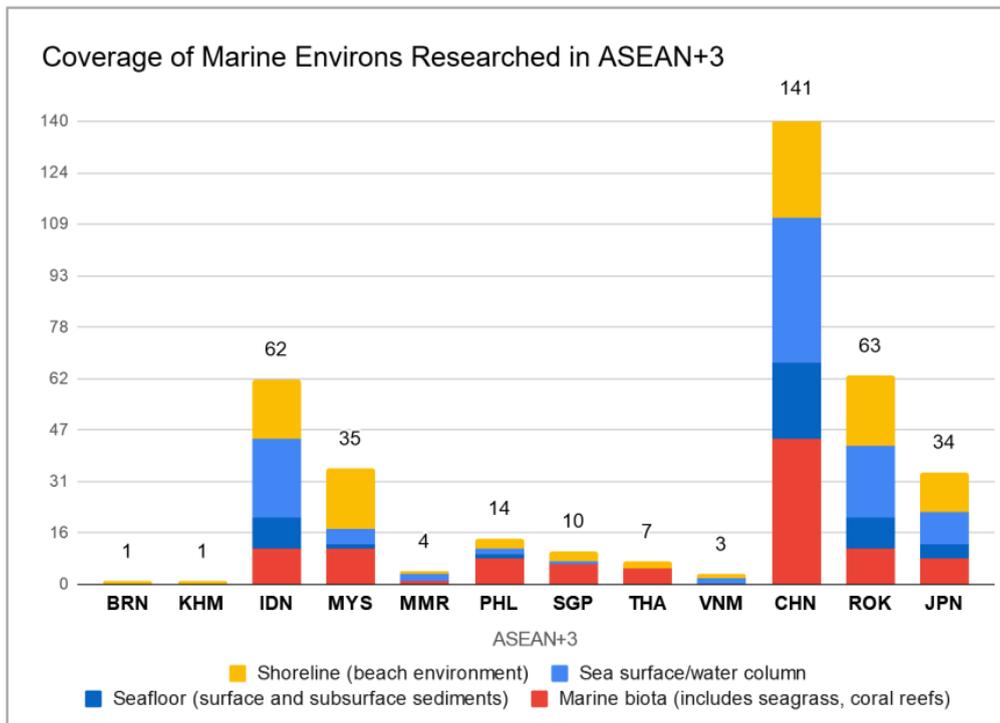


Figure 1.2.14.11. Sampling efforts in four major marine environs in ASEAN+3.