

Is a "clean" beach really clean?



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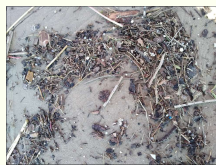
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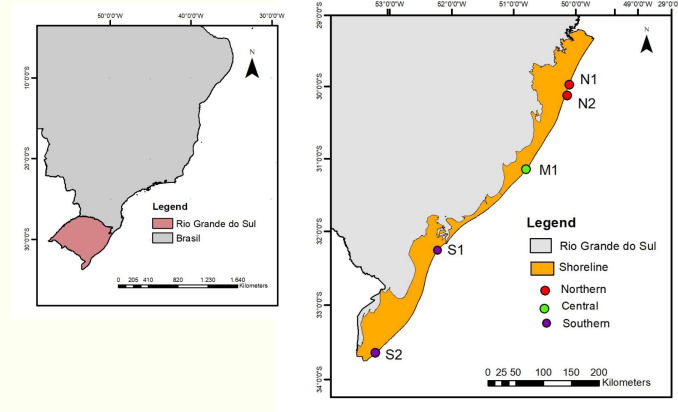
INTRODUCTION



Plastic debris is a global problem, and can be found in several locations and in different quantities.



The objective of the present study was to evaluate plastic debris and coast cleanliness along the coast of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, using the Clean-Coast Index (CCI).



METHODS

Sampling

5 beaches
2 campaigns

- spring/summer (C1)
- autumn/winter (C2)

100 m-long transect

- Macro and meso-litter
- Classified according to material
- CCI to classify the beaches



RESULTS

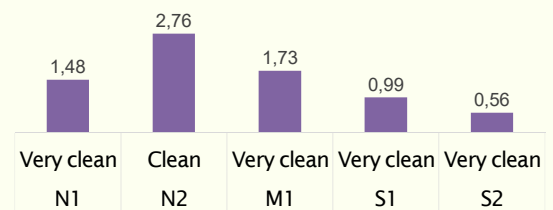
Total **6,448 items**

>74% Plastic

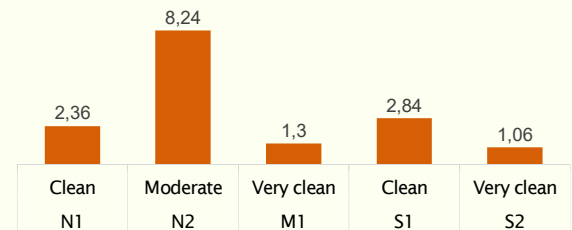
4,010 Items
 C1=1,821 (78.3%)
 C2=2,189 (72%)

Top 3 plastic items: **fragments**; **food packaging** and **fishing rope filaments**.

CCI - Campaign 1



CCI - Campaign 2



Most beaches were classified as "very clean" and "clean".

CONCLUSIONS

Despite being classified as either "very clean" or "clean", this doesn't mean a beach is free from plastic pollution.

This information should be intensely shared in order to raise public awareness.