



## **PLASTICBEACH - Dynamique des microplastiques dans les systèmes de plages sableuses (2021-23)**

**Isabel Jalón-Rojas, UMR 5805 EPOC (Bordeaux)**

et collaborateurs: Damien Sous, Vincent Marieu, Alicia Romero-Ramírez, Amine Mohammedi, Lida Rosignol, Kelly Fauquembergue



# Contexte et Motivation

Baie de Douarnenez © Ouest-France



Pas-de-Calais © <https://www.ladromemontagne.fr>



Sables-d'Olonne (Vendée) © Nathalie Guironnet



Plage de la Graviere (Hossegor) © Nathalie Guironnet



*De la Manche à la Méditerranée, une constante relie nos littoraux : la présence de microplastiques dans la zone de swash.*



Plage d'Alisu © Radio France - Louison Leroy

# Contexte et Motivation

Baie de Douarnenez © Ouest-France



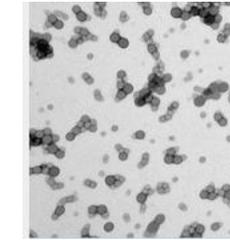
Pas-de-Calais © <https://www.ladromemontagne.fr>



Sables-d'Olonne (Vendée) © Nathalie Guironnet



Plage de la Graviere (Hossegor) © Nathalie Guironnet



petits MPs  
(25µm – 0.5 mm)

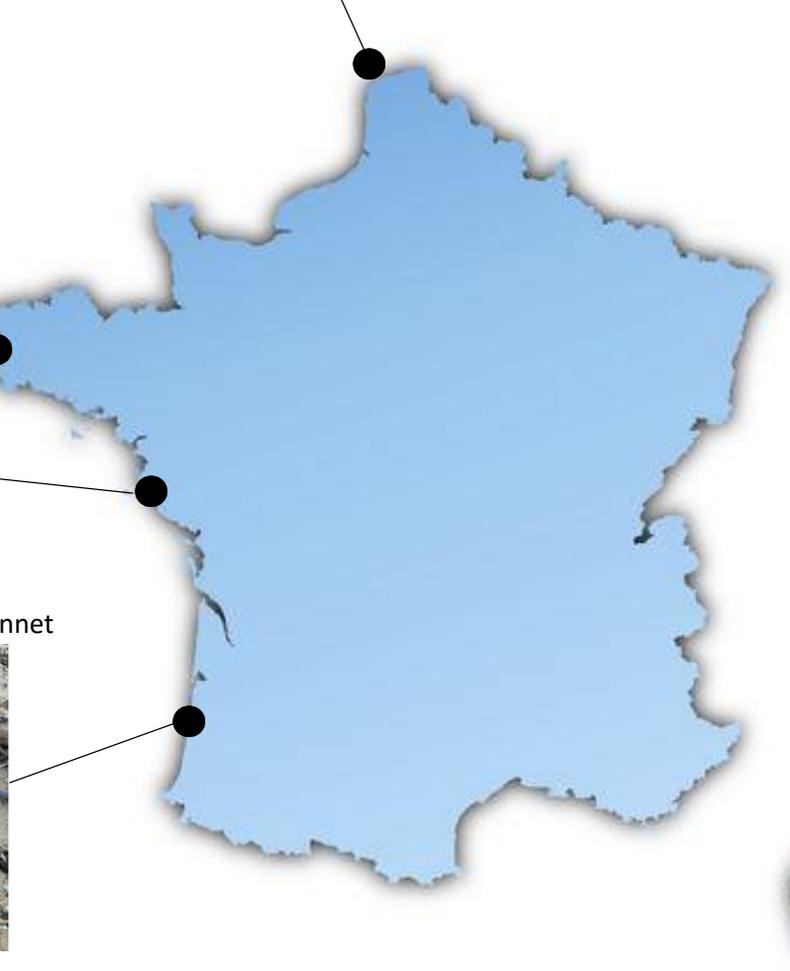
vs



grands MPs  
(0.5 – 5 mm)



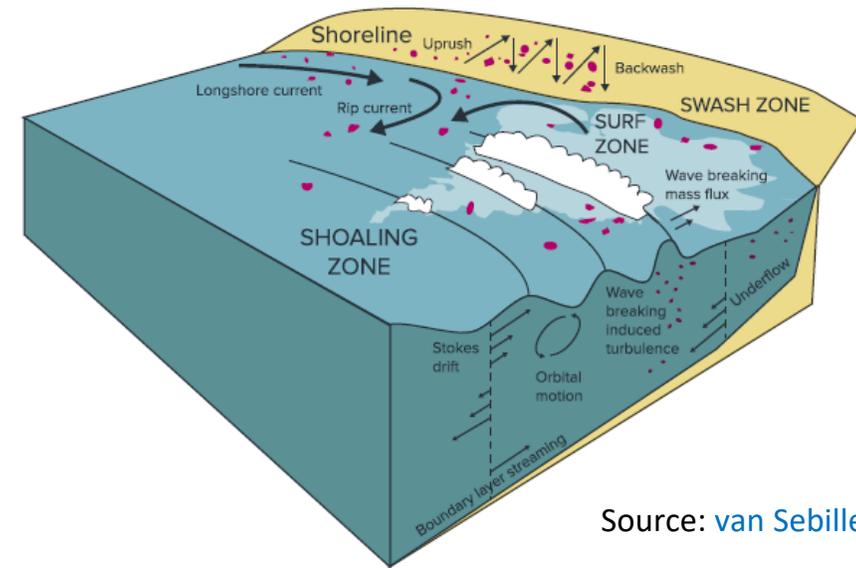
Plage d'Alisu © Radio France - Louison Leroy



## Zone littorale :

- un *puits (temporaire)* de microplastique
- une *source potentielle* de microplastique vers le large

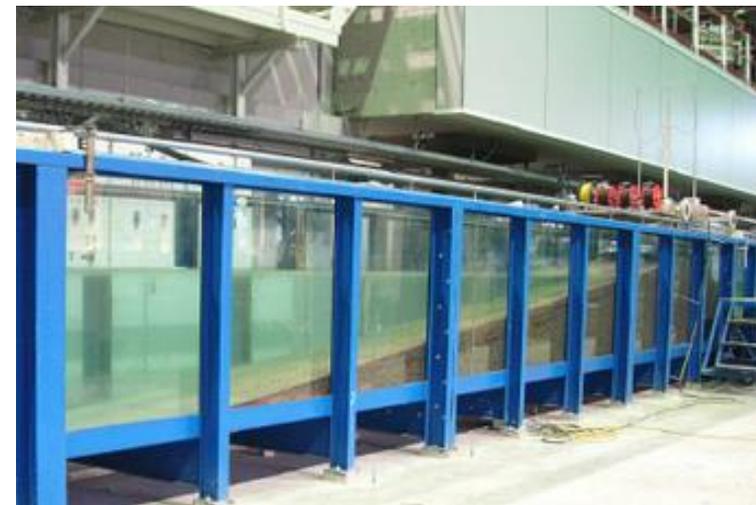
La dynamique des microplastiques dans cette zone est complexe et résulte de nombreux processus encore mal compris.



Source: van Sebille et al. (2020)

## Avancées récentes grâce à des expériences en laboratoire

Forbergs et al. (2019); Alsina et al. (2020); Kerpen et al. (2020); Guler et al. (2022)



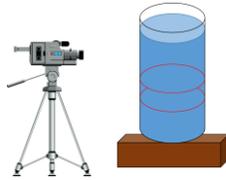
**Objectif général:** comprendre la dynamique et le transport des microplastiques au sein du système plage.

## Objectifs spécifiques:

- évaluer et paramétrer **l'effet des propriétés physiques** des microplastiques et de la **colonisation biologique** (*biofouling*) sur leur **dynamique de sédimentation**
- **améliorer la modélisation numérique** du transport de microplastiques pour tenir en compte les **processus physiques des systèmes dominés par les vagues**.
- analyser **l'influence des processus hydrodynamiques** (e.g. dérive de Stokes, *undertow*, mélange induit par le déferlement) et des **propriétés des particules** (forme, taille, densité) sur leur **distribution spatiale**, selon la morphologie des plages et les forçages naturels (saisonniers, impact des tempêtes)
- définir le **rôle de l'avant-plage** dans l'échange et l'accumulation de ces polluants émergents.

## WP 1. Essais de laboratoire: modélisation physique du transport

Verticale



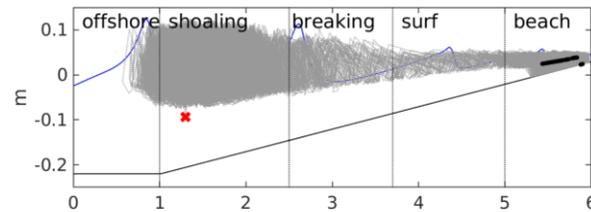
cross-shore (projet SPLASH)



## WP 3. Modélisation numérique du transport

Expériences physiques en canal

Plages à échelle réelle



## WP2. Observations in-situ



— WP 1. Essais de laboratoire: modélisation physique du transport

Verticale

**Partie I**



cross-shore (projet SPLASH)

**Partie II**

— WP 3. Modélisation numérique du transport

Expériences physiques en canal



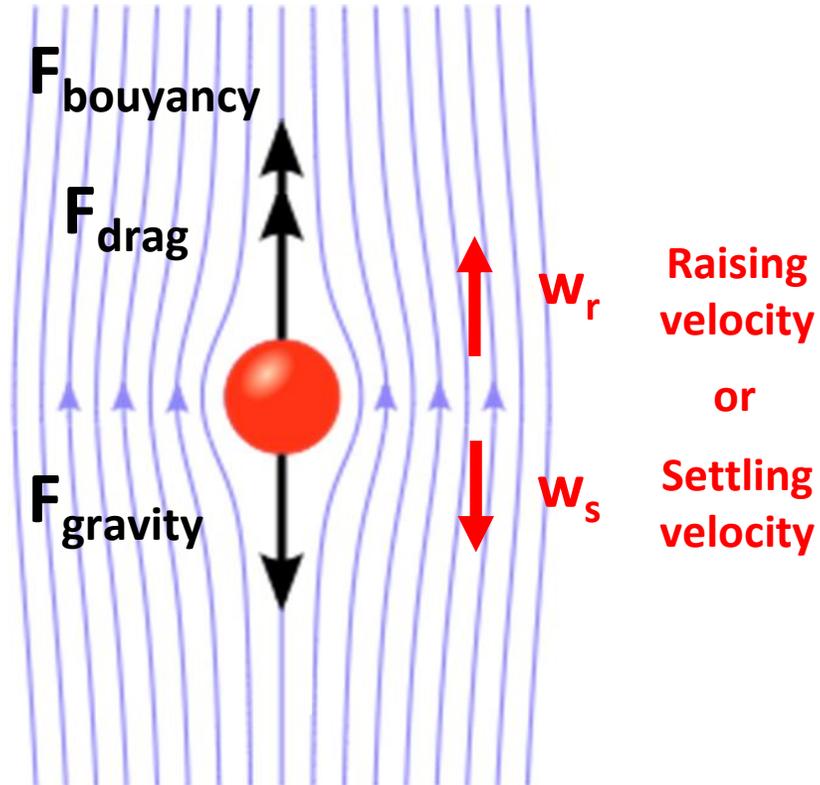
Plages à échelle réelle **(en cours)**



— WP2. Observations in-situ



**Vitesse de chute:** vitesse terminale atteinte par une particule lorsqu'elle tombe dans un fluide, lorsque les forces de gravité, de poussée d'Archimède et de résistance du fluide s'équilibrent



$$w_{s,r} = \sqrt{\frac{4gd_p(\rho_p - \rho_f)}{3C_d\rho_f}}$$

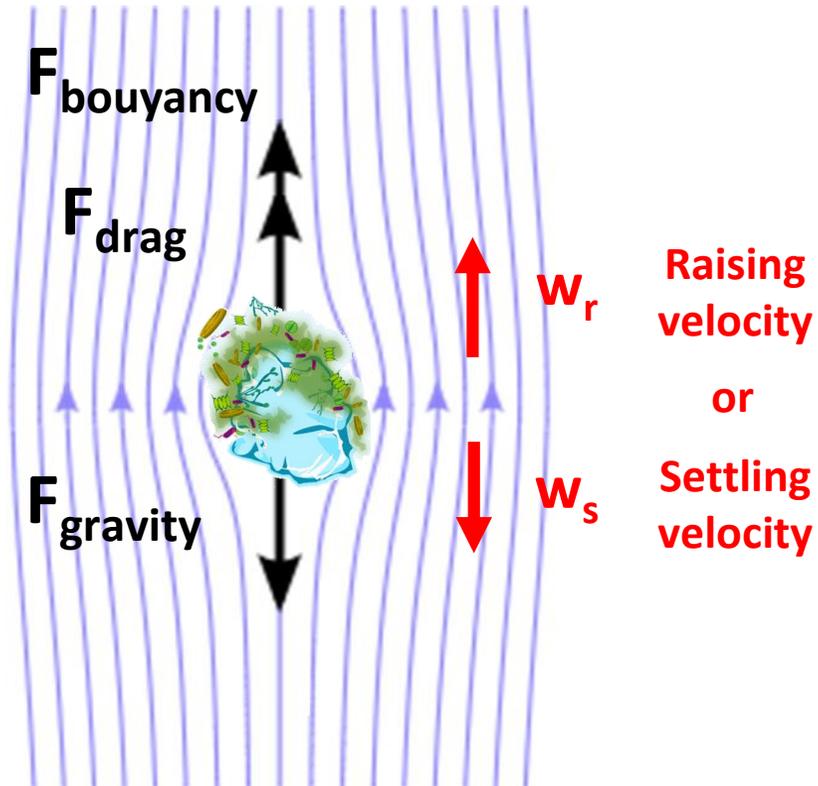
\* density  
\* size  
\* **Drag factor (Cd):** shape, Reynolds



Formulations empiriques:

- Waldschläger and Schüttrumpf (2019)
- Melkebeke et al. (2020)

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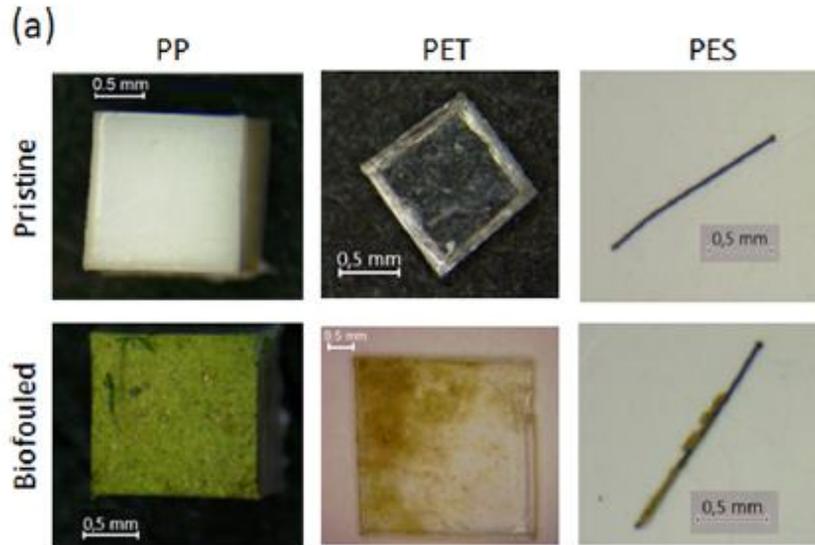
**BIOFILM??**

Formulations empiriques:

- Waldschläger and Schüttrumpf (2019)
- Melkebeke et al. (2020)

**Objectif :** évaluer l'effet des propriétés des particules et du biofilm sur la vitesse de sédimentation de feuilles et de fibres de microplastiques dans des conditions de laboratoire.

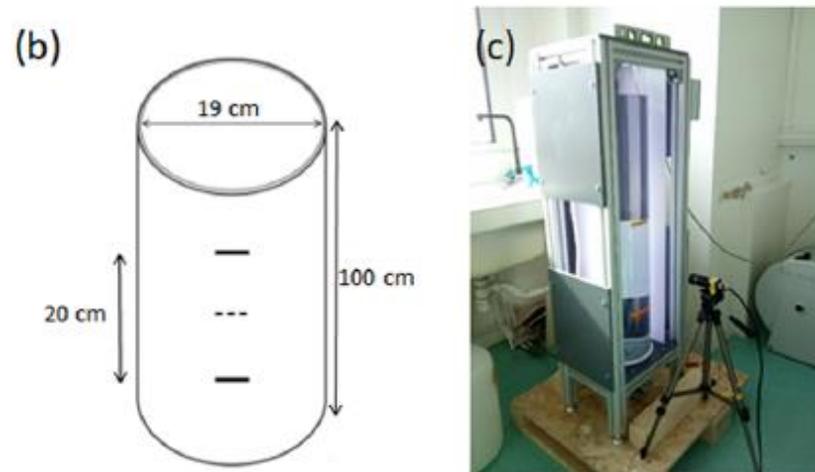
## MATERIALS



x 9 sizes (1-5mm)  
x 3 replicas

## METHODS

- Density, size, shape factors
- Settling velocity (salt and fresh water)
  - \* Validation using certified spheres
- Observations vs theoretical formulations:

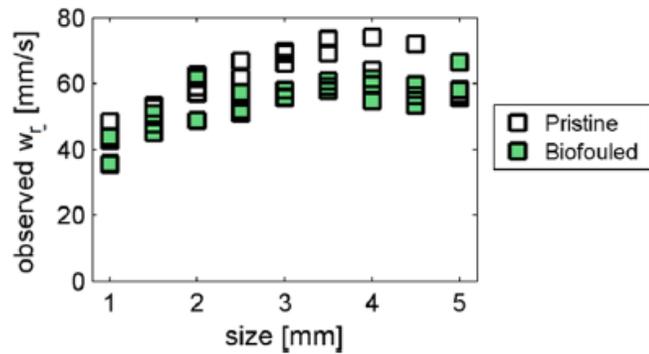
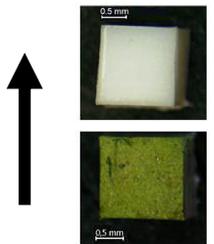
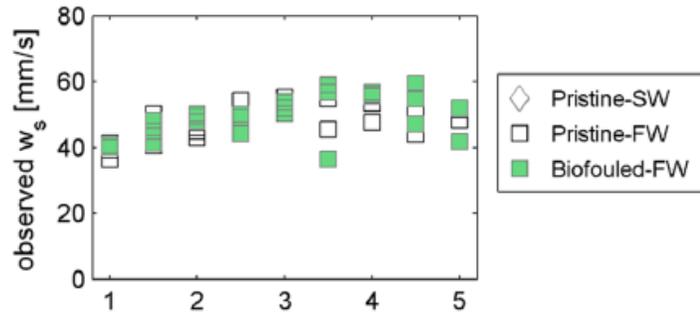
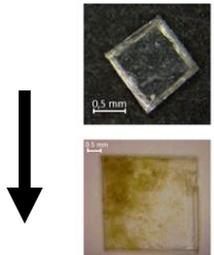
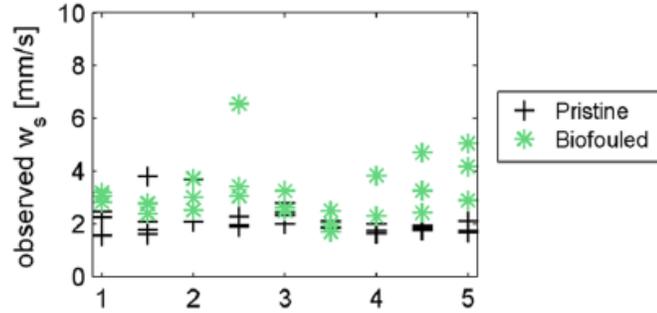
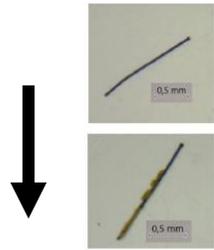


**RMSE**  
**EA**

- Dietrich (1982)
- Zhiyao (2008)
- Khatmullina & Isachenko (2017)
- Dioguardi (2018)
- Waldschläger & Schüttrumpf (2019)

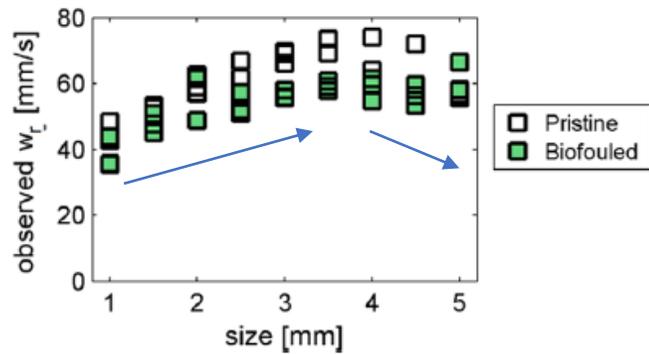
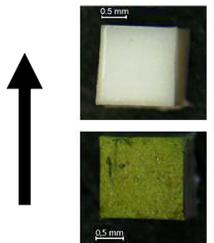
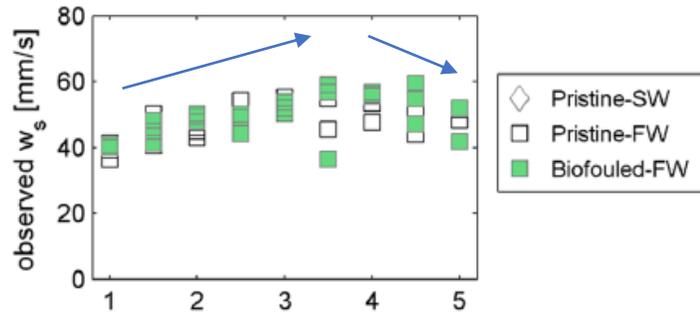
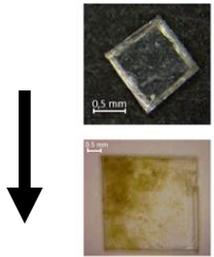
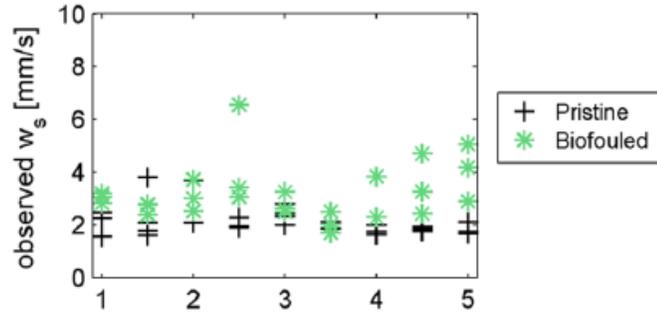
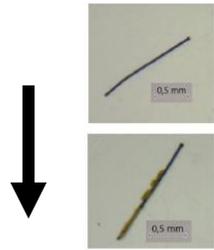
# PARTIE I. Dynamique de sédimentation des microplastiques

Terminal velocity as a function of size



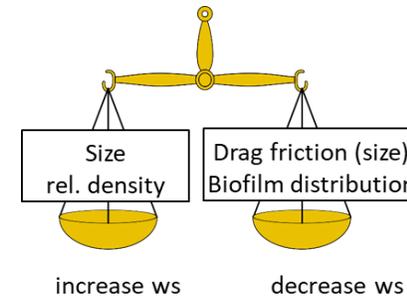
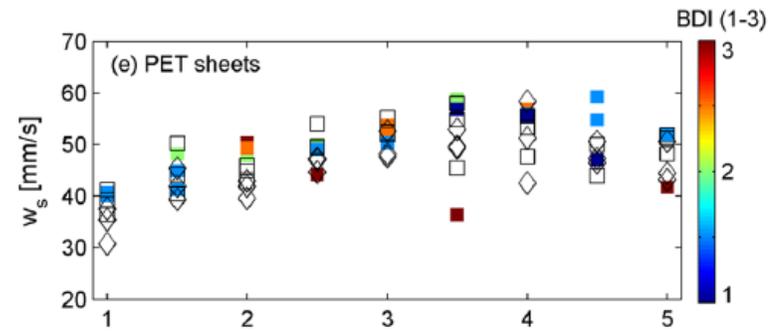
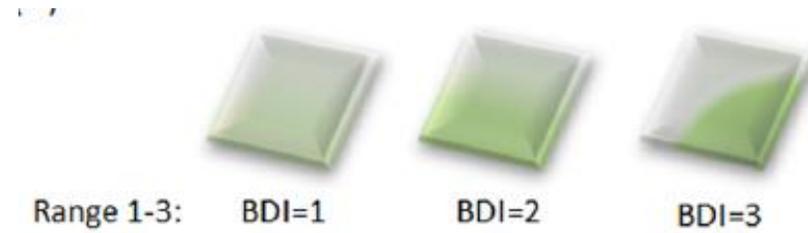
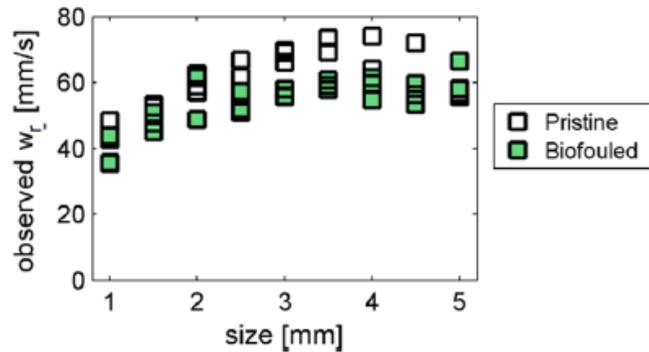
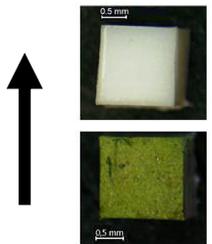
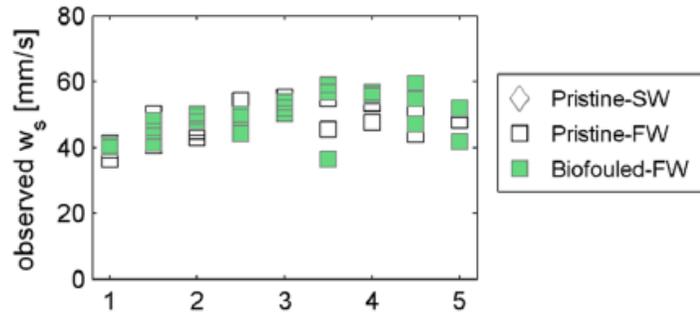
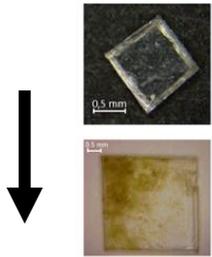
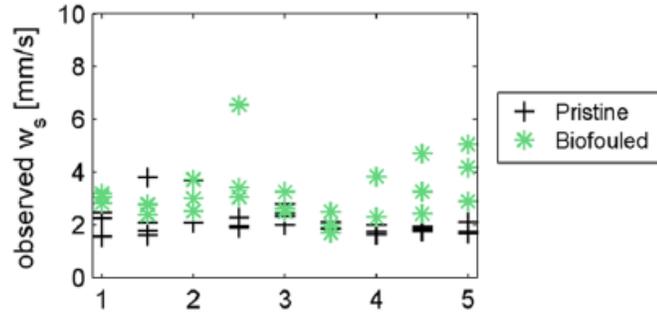
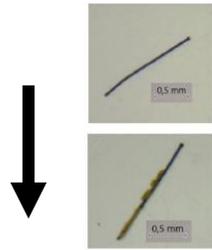
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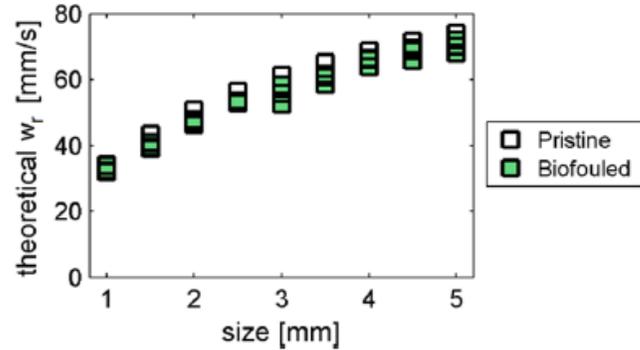
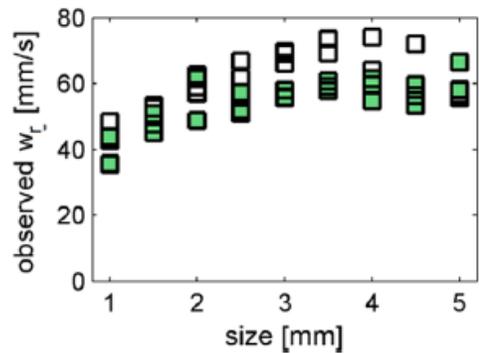
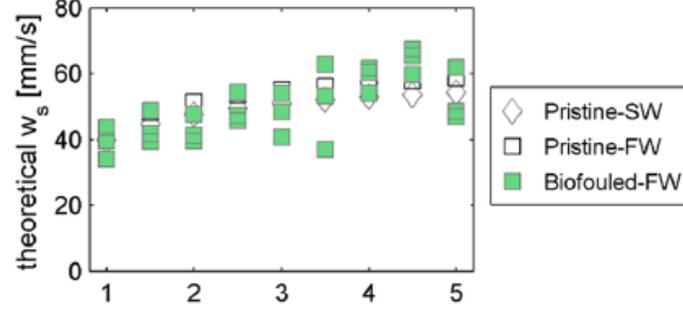
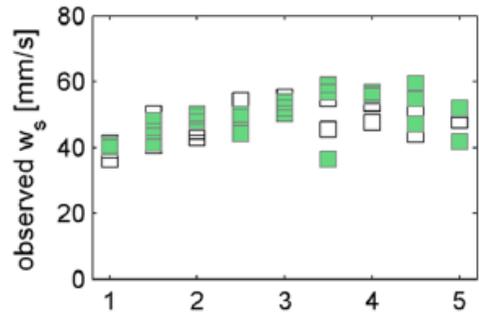
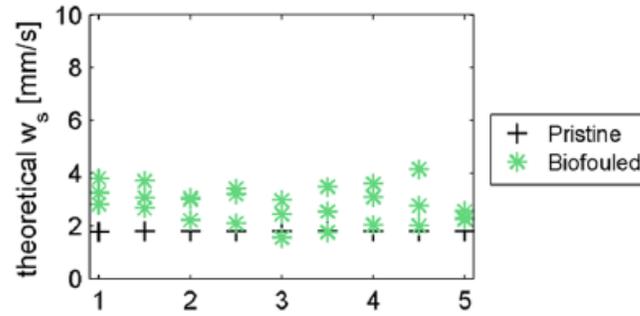
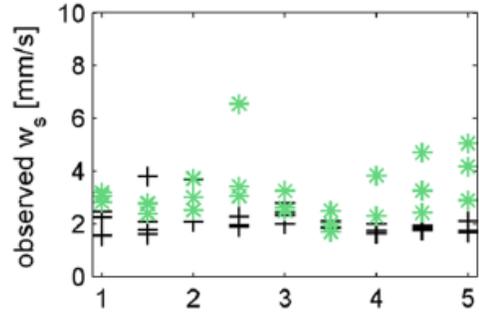
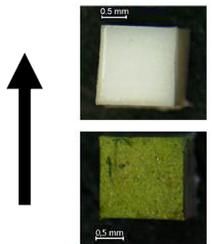
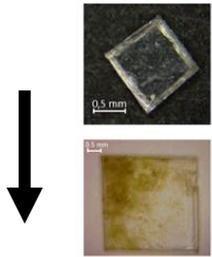
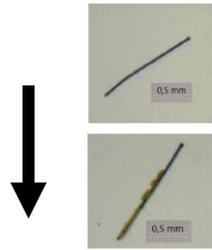
# PARTIE I. Dynamique de sédimentation des microplastiques

Terminal velocity as a function of size



# PARTIE I. Dynamique de sédimentation des microplastiques

Terminal velocity as a function of size



Best fit:

Waldschläger & Schüttrumpf (2019)

Denillo et al. (2015) modified with BDI

Denillo et al. (2015)

# PARTIE I. Conclusions

## ➔ **Forme des microplastiques : influence majeure sur la vitesse de chute (particules 1 - 5mm)**

\* Densité : la vitesse augmente avec la densité mais effet atténué pour les formes irrégulières

- \* Taille
- vitesse augmente avec la taille
  - vitesse augmente avec la taille, puis diminue après un seuil
  - / pas d'effet de la longueur

\* **Besoin de coefficients de traînée spécifiques à chaque forme**

- ➔ **Biofilm**
- Augmente la densité → vitesse de chute plus élevée
  - Distribution irrégulière → mouvements instables → vitesse parfois réduite**

**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
Science & Technology

pubs.acs.org/est

Article

### **Publication:**

**Effects of Biofilms and Particle Physical Properties on the Rising and Settling Velocities of Microplastic Fibers and Sheets**

Isabel Jalón-Rojas,\* Alicia Romero-Ramírez, Kelly Fauquembergue, Linda Rossignol, Jérôme Cachot, Damien Sous, and Bénédicte Morin

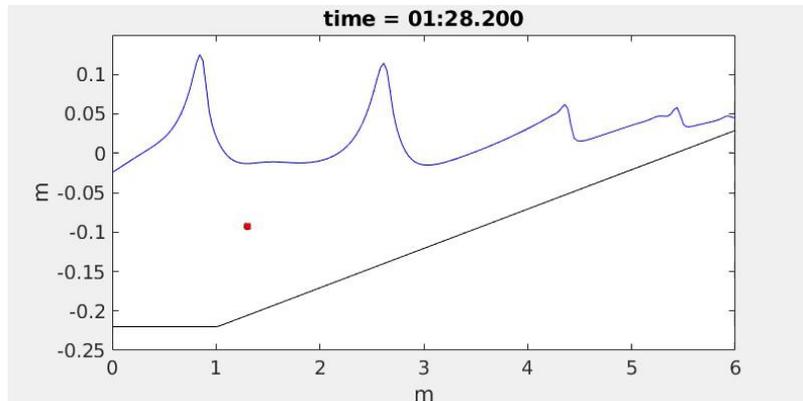
# PARTIE II. Modélisation numérique du transport

**Objective :** develop a **2DV wave-resolved modelling approach** to improve our knowledge of the **dispersion and behaviour of microplastics** in the nearshore zone.

## Numerical model development

- ✓ 2DV non-hydrostatic wave-flow model
  - ✓ Lagrangian
  - ✓ Wave-resolved

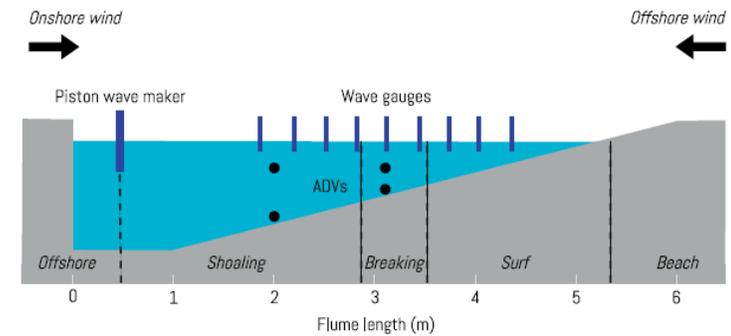
SWASH + TrackMPD



## Model validation

## Flume experiments

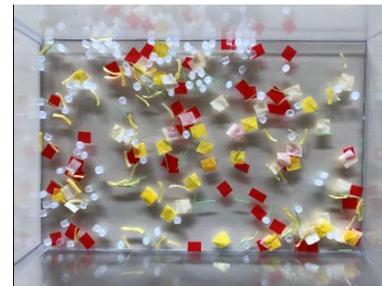
- ✓ CASH wind-wave flume
- ✓ Constant-slope bathymetry
- ✓ Regular waves produced by a piston wave maker



**Forcings:** 9.2 cm wave height; 1.2 s wave period

**6 Reference Scenarios:** Fibres, High-density, Sheets, Low density, Spheres

+ 18 Sensitivity scenarios

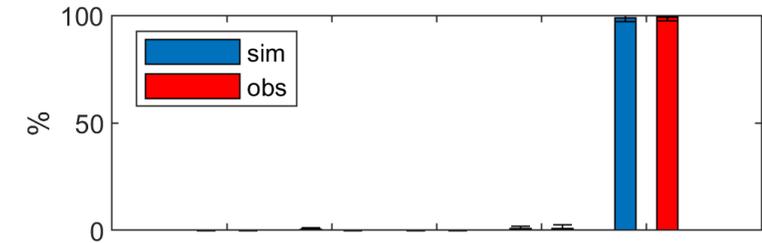
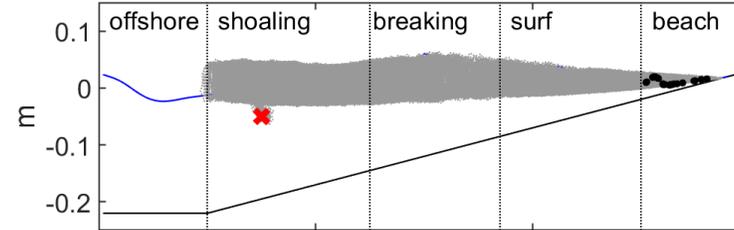


## Reference scenarios : Low-density particles

### Low-density spheres



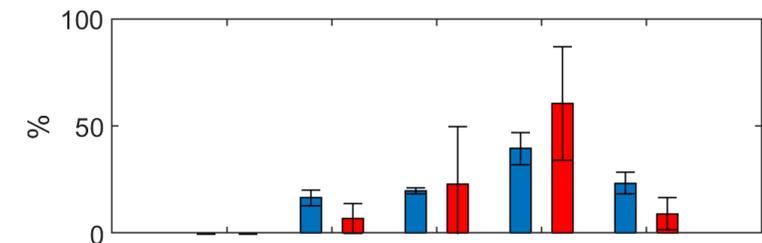
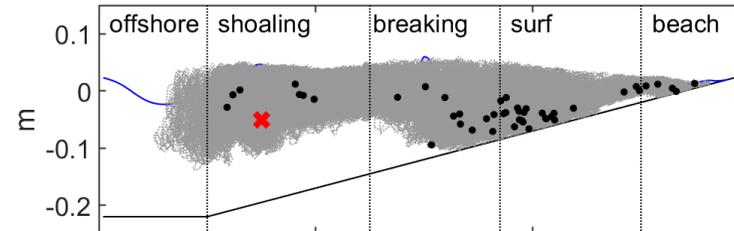
(a) SPHERES LD



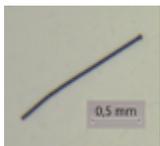
### Low-density sheets



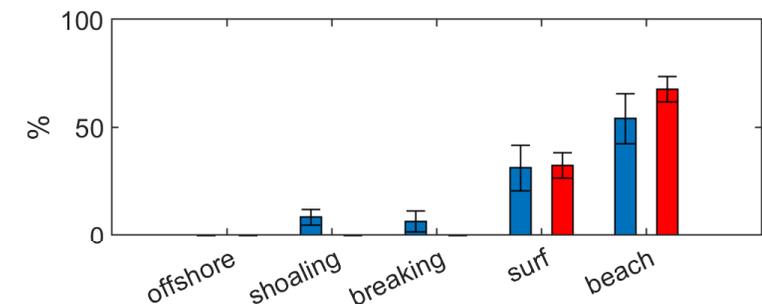
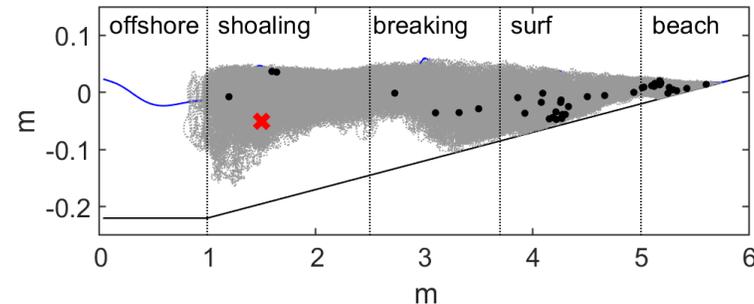
(b) SHEETS LD



### Low density fibers



(c) FIBERS LD

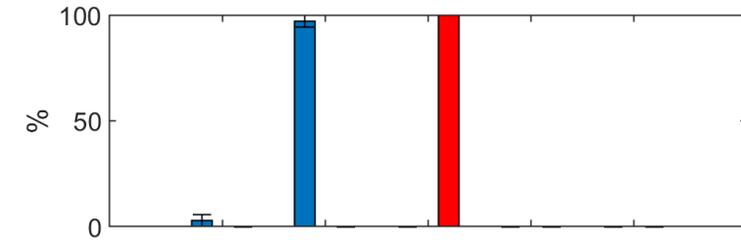
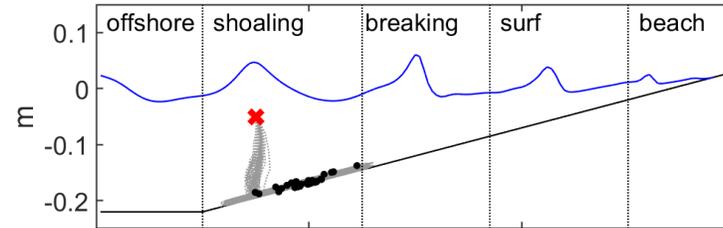


## Reference scenarios : High-density particles

### High-density spheres



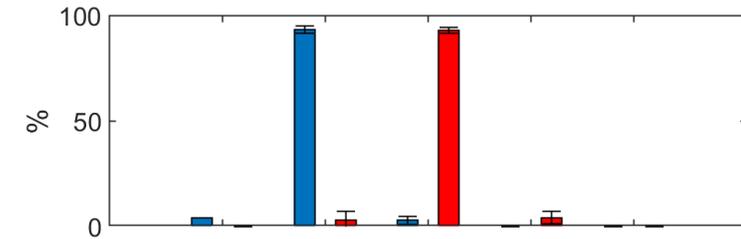
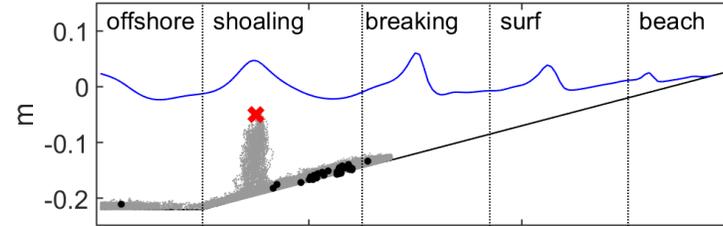
(d) SPHERES HD



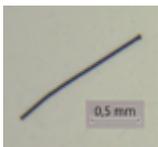
### High-density sheets



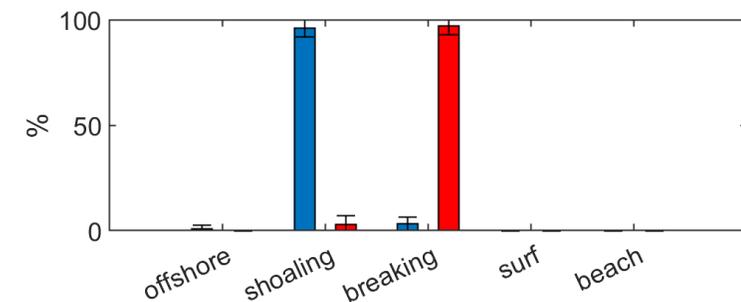
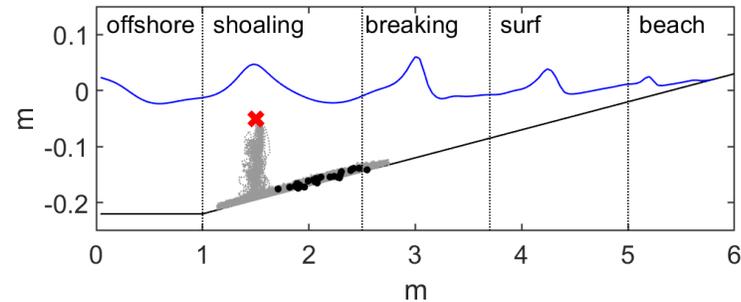
(e) SHEETS HD



### High-density fibers

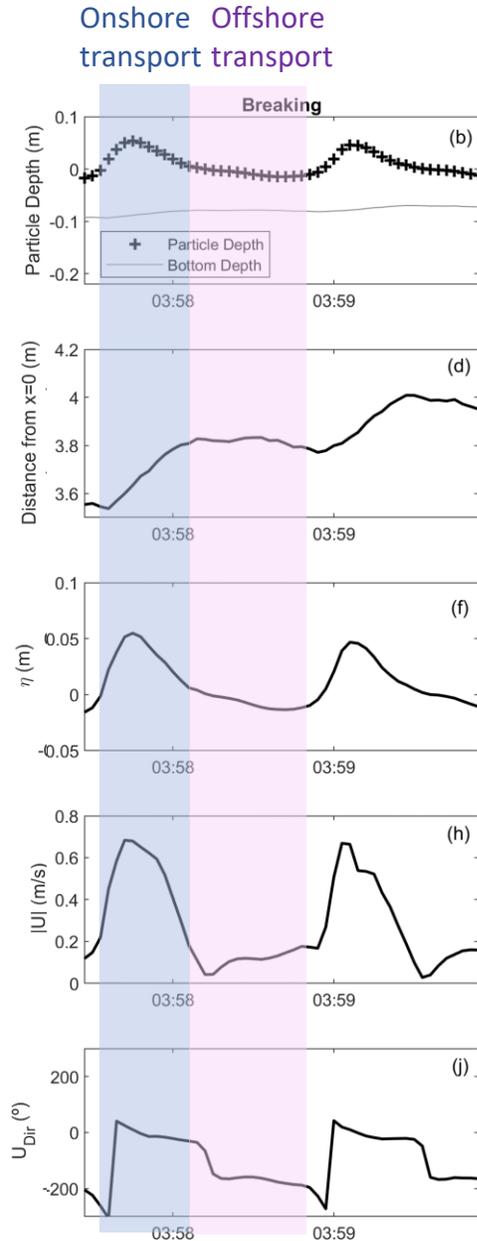


(f) FIBERS HD



# PARTIE II. Conclusions et perspectives

## Low-density spheres



- Net onshore transport observed, driven by Stokes drift and wave asymmetry.
- High buoyancy keeps particles near the surface, limiting vertical dispersion by turbulence, so particles follow onshore surface net drift velocity
- Wave breaking zone shows pronounced asymmetry in transport
- Transport currents are strongest when directed onshore (near wave crest)

- Our new **2DV wave-resolved approach** allows us to **model the transport of microplastics in nearshore water** with high confidence.
- **Vertical processes (settling, vertical mixing)** are key to understanding and predicting the dispersion of microplastics in nearshore water
- Low-density microplastics exhibited net onshore transport driven primarily by the **Stokes drift and wave asymmetry**.
- High-density microplastics were predominantly trapped near the breaking zone as a result of the **competing effects of near-bed transport driven by wave asymmetry and return undertow**

## Publication:

Geosci. Model Dev., 18, 319–336, 2025  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-18-319-2025>  
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Geoscientific  
Model Development  
Open Access  

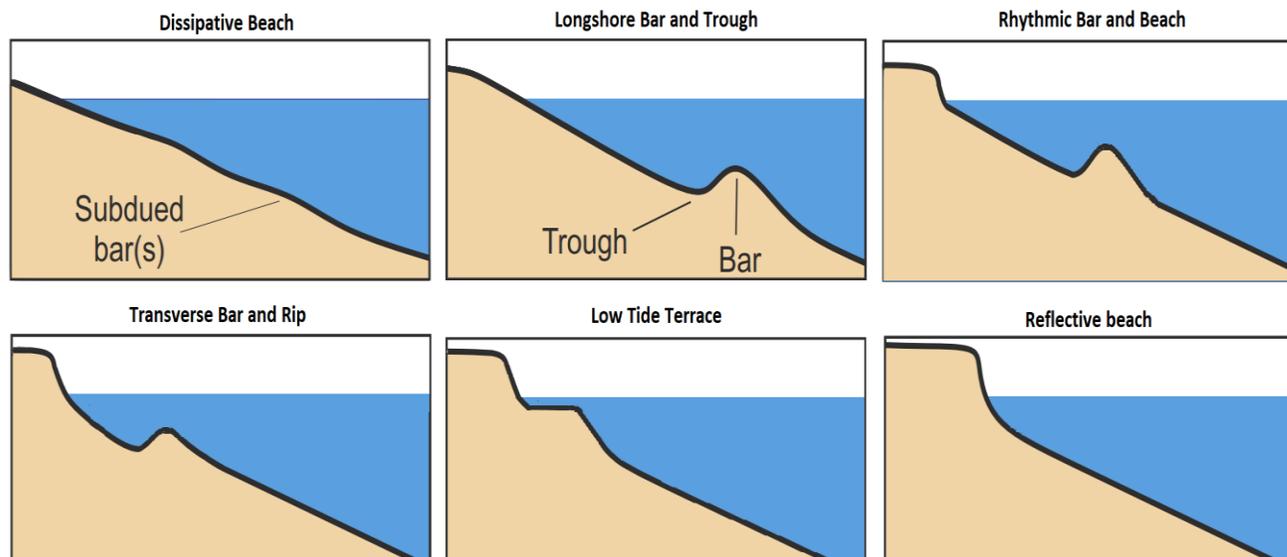

**A wave-resolving two-dimensional vertical Lagrangian approach to model microplastic transport in nearshore waters based on TrackMPD 3.0**

Isabel Jalón-Rojas<sup>1</sup>, Damien Sous<sup>2,3</sup>, and Vincent Marieu<sup>1</sup>

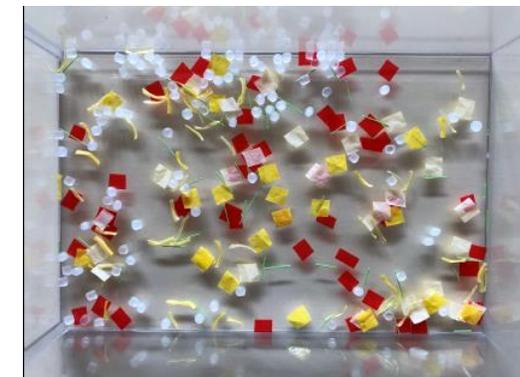
5 forçages représentatifs des **différents états de mer** caractéristiques des littoraux

Type de configuration	Scénario	$H_p$ (m)	$T_p$ (s)
Mer du vent	A1	1	7
Houle courte	A2	2	10
Houle longue	A3	2	15
Tempête modérée	A4	4	13
Tempête forte	A5	6	13

6 familles des plages de **morphologie contrastés** (après Andrew Short, 2006)



6 particules de **différents densités et forme**



- **2 publications en journaux de rang A**
- 3ème publication en cours
- 1 nouvelle version d'un modèle open access
- Un stage Master 2
- 3 communications à des Congrès
- 1 communication grand publique

[Effects of biofilms and particle physical properties on the rising and settling velocities of microplastic fibers and sheets](#)

I Jalón-Rojas, A Romero-Ramírez, K Fauquembergue, L Rossignol, ...  
Environmental Science & Technology 56 (12), 8114-8123

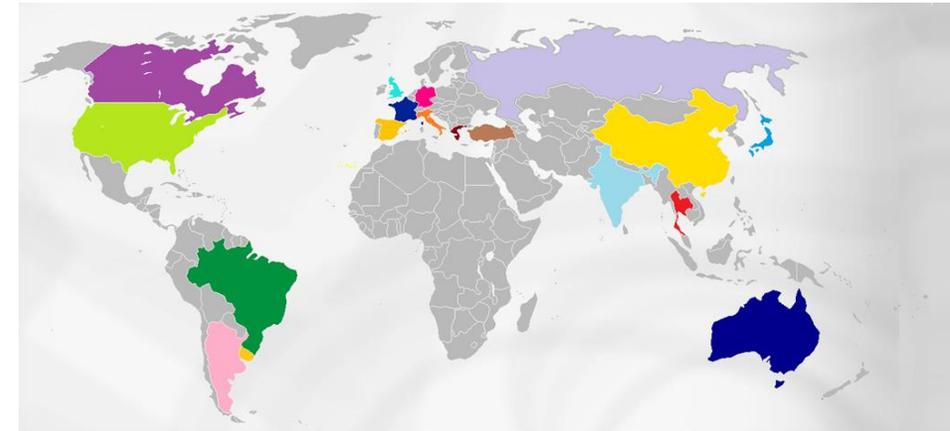
CITED BY YEAR  
68 2022

## Projets Dérivés:

- ✓ ANR JCJC PLASTINEST
- ✓ OFB ARPLASTIC 2.0
- ✓ NEXT-COAST (In2novation OceanTech)



## Utilisateurs de TrackMPD





**Merci!!**

**[Isabel.jalon-rojas@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:Isabel.jalon-rojas@u-bordeaux.fr)**

UMR 5805 EPOC (Bordeaux)