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Orientation: Oceanography and Marine
Pollution Specialization Area: Microplastics
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PhD project: **Study of microplastics in the Galician marine environment: Quantification and Identification.**

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Summary: Microplastics (MPs) have been considered emerging pollutants. There are polymers whose size is less than 5 mm. The polymers are the result of a fragmentation/degradation of macroplastics (secondary MPs) or have been manufactured in those dimensions, as raw material (primary MPS). Whatever their origin, usually they fate are the oceans and their effects are to be described. In this context, the main aim of this thesis is to increase the number of microplastics observations along the Galician coast and improve the knowledge of the existing pollutants through an analysis in order to quantify, identify and observed their distribution in two characteristic ambient matrices: sediments and surface seawaters.

The need for this type of study is included in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD of 2008/56/EC) European legislation that obliges member states to adopt the necessary measures to achieve a good environmental state of marine ecosystems, the so-called Good Environmental Status. Therefore, the content of this thesis will have immediate applicability in the implementation of strategies providing practical results.

