

BACKGROUND

Five students spent their summer studying marine pollution on Mausund in collaboration with Eider AS and NTNU through the Circular Plastics Project.

Through fieldwork and a report, the students have studied the consequences of not acting on the problem of marine pollution and worked to find a solution.

PROBLEM

Marine plastic pollution affects all aspects of the natural and social world, causing infinite costs for the environment and society.

We highlight these consequences to promote action from governments, companies and consumers.

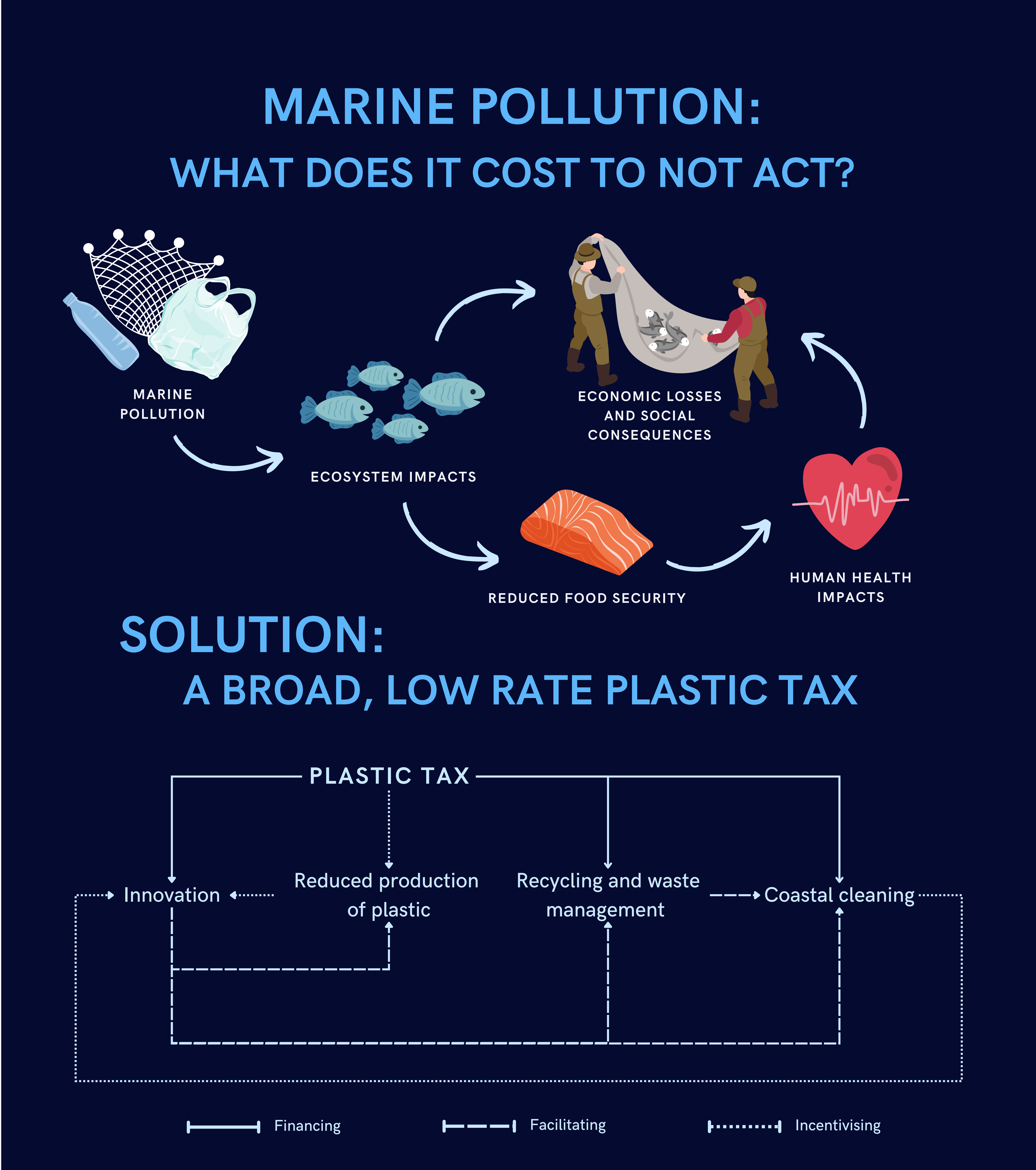
METHODS

- Qualitative interviews with community members
- Data calculations to estimate and conceptualize the scale of the problem
- Fieldwork collecting and sorting one year’s worth of waste influx on three islands

CONCLUSION

Not acting on the marine pollution problem results in incalculable costs for our social and natural systems.

More resources are needed to tackle the issue. We propose to implement a broad, low tax rate on all plastic products, with the tax revenue being allocated to marine litter mitigation.



RESULTS

Based on our collected litter in the Hitra, Frøya and Øyrekka region:

127 full-time workers are needed each year to clean one year of marine litter influx in the region.

Each year, it is estimated that **320 tons of marine litter** will end up in the region.



This amount of litter is estimated to create **3 823 kg of microplastics** in one year.

From interviews with stakeholders:

Fishermen request better waste management systems in harbors.

Farmers request more coastal cleanings.

Coastal cleaners request more funding to increase clean-up efforts.

