



EFFECTS OF MARINE LITTER ON MEDITERRANEAN MARINE LIFE: A MONITORING PROTOCOL BASED ON BIOINDICATOR ORGANISMS

Fish species and mussels as bioindicators of micro plastics in the Mediterranean Sea-HCMR contribution to the protocol

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Fish species as bioindicators of microplastics in the Mediterranean sea

Why?

- Compliance to the proposed criteria for the selection of sentinel species
- sufficient background information for several species
- can be found in different habitats, known home ranges
- sufficient information on feeding behaviour
- wide spatial distribution for several species
- commercial importance link to human health
- documented microplastic ingestion







Mussels (Mytilus galloprovincialis) as bioindicators of microplastics in the Mediterranean sea

Why?

Compliance to the proposed criteria for the selection of sentinel species

- sufficient background information
- sessile
- filter feeders
- widely distributed
- commercial importance link to human health
- documented microplastic ingestion
- used as sentinels also for pollution monitoring (e.g. MED POL)







Fish species and mussels documented worldwide to ingest microplastics



Source: UNEP and GRID-Arendal, 2016. Marine Litter Vital Graphics

60 fish species and 1 mussel species with documented records of marine litter ingestion in the Mediterranean Sea





The three tools of the proposed threefold monitoring approach can be applied simultaneously on fish or mussels samples



Plastic ingestion in fish from the Ionian Sea

Table 1

Occurrence of ingested debris in the guts of the deep-water fish caught in the Eastern Ionian Sea during the study period (2010).

| Species | Number of examined guts | No. of guts with debris (%) |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Elasmobranchs | | |
| Centrophorus granulosus | 5 | - |
| Pteroplatytrygon violacea | 2 | 1 (50.0) |
| Etmopterus spinax | 16 | 1 (6.3) |
| Galeus melastomus | 741 | 24 (3.2) |
| Raja clavata | 2 | - |
| Raja oxyrinchus | 10 | - |
| Scyliorhynus canicula | 1 | - |
| Squalus acanthias | 10 | - |
| Squalus blainville | 75 | 1 (1.3) |
| Osteichthyes | | |
| Brama brama | 9 | - |
| Conger conger | 44 | - |
| Epigonus telescopus | 4 | - |
| Helicolenus dactylopterus | 380 | - |
| Lepidopus caudatus | 1 | - |
| Merluccius merluccius | 36 | - |
| Micromesistius poutassou | 3 | - |
| Molva macrophthalma | 13 | - |
| Mora moro | 19 | - |
| Nettastoma melanurum | 1 | - |
| Pagellus bogaraveo | 60 | 1(1.7) |
| Phycis blennoides | 46 | - |
| Polyprion americanus | 14 | - |
| Scedophilus ovalis | 3 | - |
| Scorpaena elongata | 1 | - |
| Sudis hvalina | 5 | - |
| Xiphias gladius | 1 | - |
| Total | 1502 | 28 (1.9) |
| | - | |
| Xiphias gladius | 1 | - |
| Total | 1502 | 28 (1.9) |



Note

Plastic debris ingested by deep-water fish of the Ionian Sea (Eastern Mediterranean)

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Plastics represent 86.5% of the total debris items, identified in 25 individuals



Microplastic ingestion in fish and mussels from the Ionian Sea











15 MICROPLASTIC INGESTION IN MARINE BIOTA: A CASE STUDY IN THE NORTHERN IONIAN SEA

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Development of protocols for monitoring microplastic ingestion



Several digestion techniques tested

In the Wake of Plastics, 13-15 October 2015, Venice

Microplastics detection in marine biota: Methodological considerations C. Tsangaris^a, N. Digka^a, V. Athinaiou^b, M. Torre^a, A. Anastasopoulou^a C. Zeri^a [®]Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece [®]Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Ionian Islands, Greece [®]Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Ionian Islands, Greece











MONITORING MICROPLASTIC LITTER IN BIOTA

Protocol for biota sampling and sample separation

PROJECT DERELICT FISHING GEAR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE ADRIATIC REGION



Catherine Tsangaris MancaKovačViršek Andreja Palatinus

http://defishgear.net/media-items/publications

MEDSEALITTER WORKSHOP

Methodologies for the detection of microplastic ingestion

22-24/05/2017 HCMR, ANAVYSSOS, GREECE

HOST REPORT Catherine Tsangaris, Nikoletta Digka, Helen Kaberi





Development of protocols for monitoring microplastic ingestion: addressing airborne contamination







Hg. 6. Average number of fibres recovered (\pm standard error) from the digested gastrointestinal contents of fish processed with and without the use of glove box grouped by colour and size classes.



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect Marine Pollution Bulletin journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul

Anthropogenic microfibres pollution in marine biota. A new and simple methodology to minimize airborne contamination

Torre Michele^{4,4}, Nikoletta Digka^b, Aikaterini Anastasopoulou⁴, Catherine Tsangaris^b, Chryssi Mytilineou⁴ *Idelectorie for Metric Revea ch. Instatus of Metric Rickgial Researce and Hind Weie, 47.5m, Alma Suana, Nerro Licher, 17.6 General *Idelectorie for Metric Revea chattes of Owenergold, 47.5m, Alma Suana, Nerro Licher, 17.6 General *Idelectorie for Metric Revea chattes of Owenergold, 47.5m, Alma Suana, Nerro Licher, 17.6m, Alta, Greer







Biomarkers and PBT compounds in mussels and fish

| Environ Sci Pollut Res (2016) 23:1789-1804 | |
|--|--|
| DOI 10.1007/s11356-015-5410-x | |



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Biochemical biomarker responses to pollution in selected sentinel organisms across the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Tsangaris Catherine¹ - Moschino Vanessa² - Strogyloudi Evangslia¹ - Coatu Valentina³ -Ramšak Andreja⁴ - Abu Alhaija Rana⁵ - Garvalho Susana⁶ - Felline Serena⁷ -Kosyan Alisa ³ - Lzarou Viofa⁴ - Hatzianestis Ioannis¹ · Oros Andra³ - Tiganus Daniela³



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect
Science of the Total Environment



journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv

Active biomonitoring in Greek coastal waters: Application of the integrated biomarker response index in relation to contaminant levels in caged mussels

Catherine Tsangaris ^{a,*}, Ioannis Hatzianestis ^a, Vassiliki-Angelique Catsiki ^a, Konstantinos Ar. Kormas ^b, Evangelia Strogyloudi ^a, Christos Neofitou ^b, Bruno Andral ^c, François Galgani ^d

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Arch Environ Contam Toxicol (2011) 61:482-490 DOI 10.1007/s00244-010-9629-8

Oxidative Stress and Genotoxicity Biomarker Responses in Grey Mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) From a Polluted Environment in Saronikos Gulf, Greece

Catherine Tsangaris · Maya Vergolyas · Eleni Fountoulaki · Konstantin Nizheradze



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, Part C

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/cbpc



Multiple biomarkers of pollution effects in caged mussels on the Greek coastline

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Need for harmonization of methods to detect plastic presence and effects

- various methods used for the detection of microplastics in marine organisms
- no reference standards for microplastics quantification
- various methods used for the detection of plastic associated chemicals and effects (biomarkers), some are standardized
- inter calibration exercises can help validate and harmonise methods





HCMR team

- Catherine Tsangaris, Biologist Ecotoxicologist
- Aikaterini Anastasopoulou, Biologist Ichthyologist
- Christina Zeri, Marine Chemist
- Helen Kaberi, Marine Chemist
- Chryssi Mytilynaiou, Biologist Ichthyologist
- Nikoletta Digka, Biologist





HCMR team participation in projects addressing marine litter

- PERSEUS EU FP7 http://www.perseus-net.eu
- MERMAID EU FP7 ERA-NET http://www.mermaidera.eu
- DeFishGear IPA Adriatic CBC http://www.defishgear.net
- CLEANSEA EU FP7 http://www.cleansea-project.eu
- MEDSEALITTER Interreg MED
- INDICIT DGENV
- National monitoring for MSFD-D10 Marine Litter (not started yet)

Thank you for your attention!

Links to human health

- Fish and mussels consumed by humans
- Ingested microplastics may transport chemicals
- Potential biomagnification of microplastic transported chemicals up the food chain



Source: Rochman, C. The Complex Mixture, Fate and Toxicity of Chemicals Associated with Plastic Debris in the Marine Environment. Marine Anthropogenic Litter, Springer 2015

