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Plastics Fish from Mediterranean Sea: What We Do Eat?

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INTRODUCTION

Plastics are widespread all over the world and in marine environments also (Savoca et al. 2019). Plastics are found in all compartments and biota too (Savoca et al. 2019; Mancuso et al. 2019, Consoli et al. 2018), for these reasons, there is a growing interest about the effects of MicroPlastics (MPs) on human health (De Sà et al. 2018).

In fact, plastic degrades to smaller pieces that are ingested by fish and can release dangerous chemicals. Many authors investigated the presence of plastic debris in the stomach contents of large pelagic fish caught in the Mediterranean Sea.

Some studies presented the first evidence of plastic debris in stomach of large pelagic fish in the Mediterranean Sea (Romeo et al. 2016, Romeo et al. 2015, Battaglia et al. 2015) and in fish also (Mancuso et al. 2019, Savoc aet al. 2019) and the majority of these fish are eaten from humans. At the moment are unknown the effects on human health but the possibility that the consumption polutted fish can transport and transfer contaminants is high.

Scientific results on MicroPlastics showed the presence of different kind of polymers such as polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene (PS), polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyamide (PA), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) (Avio et al. 2016).

On European Level, the level of plastics in fish stomachs has been defined as an indicator for the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the marine environment under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

In my opinion, studies should carry out on fish species and invertebrates such as the shellfish that are mostly commercialized for human consumption and also on large pelagics, which could accumulate large quantities of pastiche although at the moment there are no reliable data on the accumulation of micro-plastics in organisms.

DECLARATION

The author declares that there are no conflicts of interests.

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