

Microplastic for Dinner

a study on microplastic ingestion by Atlantic fish species

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Authorship reflect contribution



1. Microplastic ingestion

Marine microplastics (MPs) are an increasing concern because of its small size and durability which allows ingestion by marine organisms^[1]. MP ingestion can cause physical harm to the fish, such as false sense of satiety and blocking of the digestion tract^[2,3]. Toxic chemicals on plastics can potentially transfer to fish tissue and bioaccumulation is of human concern^[1]. This review compares published data on the ingestion rates of MPs in two economically important fish species used as food sources from the Northern Atlantic ocean, the Atlantic cod (*G. morhua*) and Atlantic mackerel (*S. scombrus*).

2. Aim of study

Mapping and comparison of microplastic ingestion by benthopelagic Atlantic cod and pelagic living Atlantic mackerel.



3. Higher ingestion rate in mackerel

Significantly more microplastic in the Atlantic mackerel than in the Atlantic cod (Figure 1). Difference in mean value is about 20%.

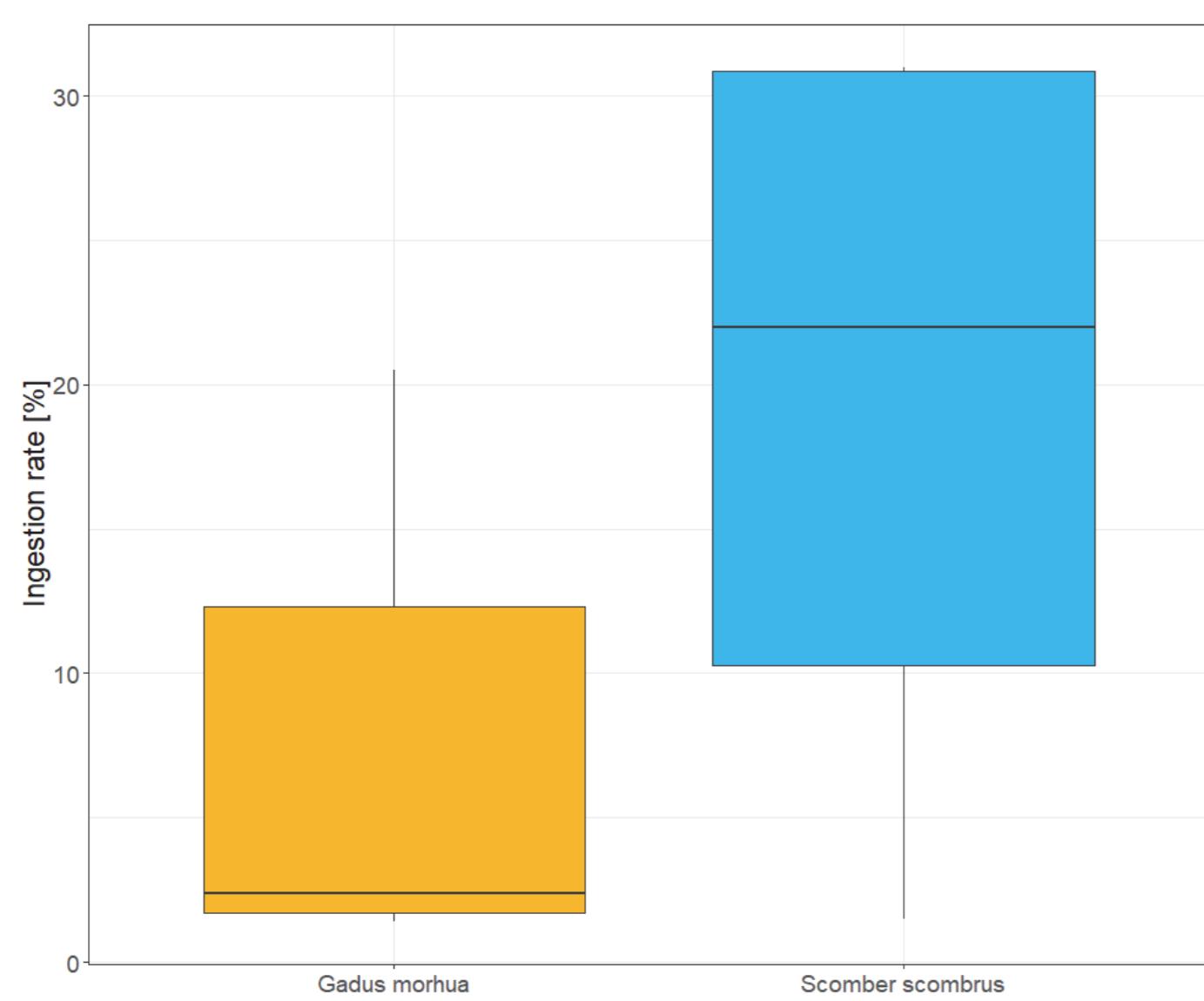


Figure 1: Ingestion rate of microplastic in Atlantic cod and Atlantic mackerel.

4. Conclusion

Increasing rates of microplastic in the oceans can have negative effects on human health, food supply and have fatal consequences for fish.



References:

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- [3] Neves, D. et al. (2015). Ingestion of microplastics by commercial fish off the Portuguese coast, *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 101(1), pp. 119–126. doi: 10.1016/J.MARPOLBUL.2015.11.008.

