



Mussels, oysters and scallops most susceptible to microplastic

Molluscs and shellfish have the highest levels of microplastics in seafood, a study has found.

Researchers at at Hull York Medical School and the University of Hull found up to 10.5 pieces of microplastic per gram of oysters, mussels and scallops, with the highest concentrations in those collected off the coast of Asia.

Up to 8.6 microplastics per gram were found in crustaceans and up to 2.9 in fish, said the study, published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives.

Lead author Evangelos Danopoulos said he had set out to find out how much microplastics people were eating by analysing how much of it was found in different species and combining that with data on how much was typically eaten in different parts of the world.

Someone eating the amount of seafood that the average British person eats would ingest more than 68,000 microplastics per year, the authors calculated.

Globally, China, Australia, Canada, Japan and the US are the largest consumers of molluscs, followed by Europe and the UK.

Other scientists have concluded that ingesting microplastic may be harmful to people's health, but we don't yet know how much is actually





being consumed. Previous studies have used data from animals and from human cell lines.

"I think that this is the first step of understanding whether microplastics pose a risk to human health.

"The first step in a risk assessment is trying to quantify how much microplastics we're exposed to, and then we have to look at the potential effects that the microplastics can have on human health.

"By comparing how much we eat and what effects it could have, then we can have an answer about the risk that they might pose," he said.

Microplastic is created when plastics find their way into rivers and oceans and are broken down into tiny particles of less than 5mm in diameter, which can be accidentally ingested by sea creatures.

Molluscs are thought to be particularly vulnerable to this because they are filter feeders which tend to live on the ocean floor, where dense microplastics end up.

Lien article :

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/environment/2020/12/23/mussels-oysters-scallops-susceptible-microplastic/>

