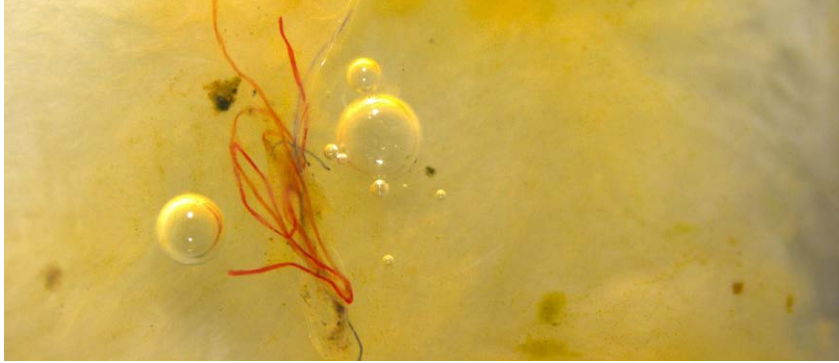


Microplastics in guts of short neck clam



The Short neck clam, *Paphia malabarica* Chemnitz, 1782, fished from Muthalapozhi estuary, located in northern part of Kerala is regularly marketed in Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. The fishery is regularly monitored since 2017 by sampling

clams from Azhoor for biological analysis. During 2018-2019, 720 clams were subject to microscopic examination of tissue smear to assess the gonadal maturity of the species. The occurrence of microplastic (plastic materials or fragments of less than 5

mm size) fibres in gonadal tissue was observed on two different occasions in images captured using a Carl Zeiss Discovery V8 Stereomicroscope with an Axio-Cam digital camera. Since the bivalves are filter feeders, these fibres which are a common marine pollutant, could have entered through feeding. Since this bivalve is eaten as whole tissue, unlike dressed fish, transfer of microplastics from lower to higher trophic level is possible. These risks are to be addressed through proper land runoff and marine pollution management.

(P. Gomathi*, M. K . Anil, B. Raju, P. M Krishna priya, O. Salini and Geetha Sasikumar | Vizhinjam Regional Centre of ICAR-CMFRI)