

{rokbox title=|Study map of the sampling stations in the Mediterranean Sea for the ingestion of anthropogenic particles :: Figure: Authors| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ingestion-microplasticos-sardina-anchoa-mediterraneo-compa-et-al-2018-thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ingestion-microplasticos-sardina-anchoa-mediterraneo-compa-et-al-2018.jpg{/rokbox}

Montserrat Compa, Ana Ventero, Magdalena Iglesias, Salud Deudero, 2018. [Ingestion of microplastics and natural fibres in *Sardina pilchardus* \(Walbaum, 1792\) and *Engraulis encrasicolus* \(Linnaeus, 1758\) along the Spanish Mediterranean coast.](#)

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Abstract: The ingestion of microplastics and natural fibres (minor than 5 mm) was assessed for two commercial fish species in the western Mediterranean Sea: *Sardina pilchardus* and *Engraulis encrasicolus*

Engraulis encrasicolus

. Gastrointestinal tracts from 210 individuals from 14 stations were examined with 14.28–15.24% of the small pelagic fish

S. pilchardus

and

E. encrasicolus

having ingested microplastics and natural fibres. A latitudinal increase in condition index (Fulton's K) of

S. pilchardus

gave an indication that larger individuals with better physical condition are less likely to ingest microplastics and natural fibres. Fibres were the most frequent particle type (83%) and Fourier Transform Infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) analysis indicated polyethylene terephthalate was the most common microplastics material (30%). Results from this study show that both microplastics and natural fibres of anthropogenic origin are common throughout the pelagic environment along the Spanish Mediterranean coast.

Keywords: Fibres, Feeding, Fulton's K, Occurrence, MFSD, Plastic pollution