

Occurrence of macro plastic in the stomach of flat needlefish

Subal Kumar Roul, D. Prakasan, M. M. Sadik, A. S. Aswathy, T. B. Retheesh, R. Gireesh and E. M. Abdussamad

ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

On 6th January 2016, biological samples of *Ablennes hians* were collected from the hook and line fishing boats based at Munambam Fishing Harbour, Kochi. While analysing the gut contents in the laboratory, the stomach of one specimen (weight 380 gm, total length 687 mm) contained macro plastic material having about 0.02 gm weight. Stomach also contained partially digested shrimps, sea snails (*Diacavolinia longirostris*, *Cavolinia tridentata*) and digested matter.

Information collected from the fisherman indicated these fishes were caught by hook and line (hook no. 12) and fishing operation was done at a distance of 10 km from the shore. Flat needlefishes are carnivorous and feed on small surface-dwelling fish. This plastic material may have been ingested during feeding. The risk associated with the transfer of chemicals to biota from ingested debris is not yet clearly understood.

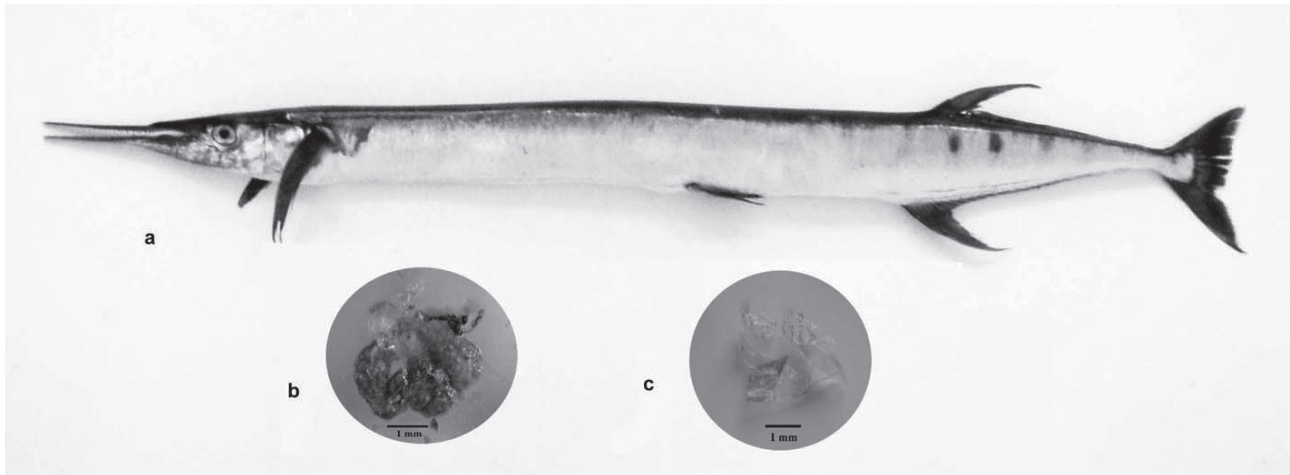


Fig. 1. *Ablennes hians* (a) stomach content (b) macro plastic (c)