

Obsidian ExploraTalk

Zoom In On Microplastics

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 ~ 4PM via Zoom



Dr. Susanne Brander and other scientists from Oregon to British Columbia are scrutinizing the marine food chain from top to bottom, from zooplankton to killer whales. All are being analyzed for microplastics, currently a hot topic for local scientists. We are all concerned that our oceans are awash in plastic fibers and trash.

Specifically, Brander who is a toxicologist will be discussing recent research findings from her and collaborators' labs on micro and nanoplastic occurrence in the environment and effects on aquatic organisms. This includes field work on PNW marine organisms such as rockfish (a bottom-dwelling species) and filter-feeding mussels. Studies also involve behavioral responses of larval fish, measured in the lab, to commonly detected microplastics such as particles generated from tire material during use on roads and fibers from ropes, nets, and clothing.

Are the plastics killing the animals? Should we be worried about eating local seafood? How are plastics being monitored in local waters?

Enjoy this ExploraTalk via Zoom (not at the Obsidian Lodge)

Please sign up on the Obsidian Online System (where you sign up for trips)

Participants who sign up will receive an email with the Zoom link by November 15

For more information: scied@obsidians.org