13:58:21 From Bernie Kuhajda : Do you run blanks with digestion chemicals, for each sample, and do they stay as long as the sample stays - 2 days to 2 weeks?

14:00:09 From Bernie Kuhajda : Rinsing with what?

14:02:54 From Cynthia Tant : I have a student who is working on fish-some large ones!

14:03:49 From Peter Hazelton : very interested in evaluating effects on fw bivalves... but have not found opportunities yet.

14:03:49 From Jason Love : Asian Clams (Corbicula fluminea) in 2018. Need RAMAN to finish up study.

14:04:10 From Barbara Beckingham : We’re finding microplastics in fish digestive tracts (collaboration with SC Dept. of Natural Resources) and stranded dolphins (collaboration with NOAA). Lots of time spent on adapting methods!

14:07:22 From Bernie Kuhajda : I think you mentioned museum specimens as well as fresh fish. How different were digestion protocols?

14:09:47 From Austin Scircle : I'm looking at Gulf Coast Oysters. Have you had any luck using Nile Red and fluorescence microscopy with oysters or other shellfish? My digestions are nearly complete (w 20% KOH and sieving) but any amount of tissue left behind stains easily, complicating the fluor. microscopy.

14:13:44 From Cynthia Tant : We use a NightSea fluorescence adapter for our dissecting scope.

14:17:36 From Austin Scircle : Thanks for the advice on my prior question. Here's another one, freeze dried tissues vs wet tissues? I've had somewhat better results digesting and sieving wet tissue, but I'm curious what others' experiences are.

14:19:01 From Jason Love : If folks are interested in learning more about our research on MPs in Asian Clams in the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina, there is a recent Zoom presentation I gave as part of the Zahner lecture series. The presentation was for the general public, so didn't go deep into methods, stats, etc. and I left out some graphs. Here is the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iW6QjhHfIFE>. This study is not published as I still need to run the samples through a spectrometer. Looking for a collaborator. . .

14:26:06 From Rae : <https://www.shopevident.com/category/forensic-light-sources>

14:26:31 From Rae : <https://www.shopevident.com/category/forensic-light-sources/orion-lite-455nm-blue-light>

14:27:32 From Cynthia Tant : Here’s the link to the NightSea: <https://www.nightsea.com/products/stereomicroscope-fluorescence-adapter/>

14:28:03 From Barbara Beckingham : Has anyone tried using enzymes like chitonase for GI tract or other biota samples?

14:29:31 From Austin Scircle : I tried proteinase- K enzymes for oyster digestion to little success, KOH digestion worked better for me.

14:31:24 From Andreas Fath : KOH is not capable to digest chitine

14:31:41 From Rae : <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/microplastics.html>

14:32:57 From Barbara Beckingham : At higher KOH concentrations you have to worry about some plastic types (like PET fibers) being susceptible to break-down

14:34:59 From Lauren Carroll : Graduate student here, currently not working in microplastics but interested for a future project - I had the opportunity to speak with a researcher working with great whites and various other sharks with OCEARCH and she is using fecal materials as a minimally invasive technique. Do you think this could be a useful technique for sampling larger species?

14:36:49 From Bernie Kuhajda : For larger T&E fishes, enemas work well for diet studies, probably good for microplastics

14:38:38 From Bernie Kuhajda : Lots in Paddlefish!

14:40:26 From Jason Love : I tried to find this answer - how much water does a freshwater mussel filter? Also, there was a study (can't recall the pub at the moment) that looked at where MPs were located in mussels - there was a fairly large proportion that wasn't in the digestive tract, but simply adhered to the outer tissue of the mussel.

14:41:01 From Peter Hazelton : they can also be separating it out

14:46:23 From Fabiola Lopez Avila : Do you know in about how many fishes from your sample of about 100 had microplastics after digestions? I'm hoping for a little encouragement :)

14:47:26 From Fabiola Lopez Avila : From the historical collection you and your team investigated

14:52:59 From Andreas Fath : what was the main type of plastic you found in fish

14:53:48 From Andreas Fath : I guess PE or PP

14:56:21 From Jeff Schaeffer : Pumpkinseeds eat snails that could be accumulated via snail diets. Largemouth bass eat pumpkinseeds. Killifish can't be explained but I would like at the prey eaten by the high plastics fish.

14:57:50 From Jeff Schaeffer : Anglers use scented soft plastic lures all the time so fish do respond to smells. You can buy spray bottles of specific scents.

14:58:21 From Bernie Kuhajda : Depends on life history stage of fish in many instances