

**ANALYSIS OF THE GUT CONTENTS OF LARGEHEAD  
HAIRTAIL, *Trichiurus lepturus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
in SURIGAO DEL SUR**

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## ABSTRACT

The traditional gut content analysis is one of the methods used which investigates feeding interactions, specifically those belonging to the aquatic food webs. The ribbonfish, *Trichiurus lepturus* is an economically important fish, and due to its high demand to other south-east Asian countries especially in the Philippines, there is a targeted fishery for this resource. However, the catch of this species in the country has declined recently. Since feeding habits are fundamental to understanding the ecology of a community, this study aimed to analyze the gut contents of *Trichiurus lepturus*. A total of 66 guts were examined in the study. The size ranged from 101-505 mm in total length. They fed mostly on fishes including *Encrasicholina* sp., and shrimps such as *Acetes*, *Penaeus*, and *Lucifer*. Moreover, there was an occurrence of cannibalism but only larger individuals. Microplastics were also evident in most of the size classes.