23rd WiN Global Annual Conference – Women in Nuclear Meet Atoms for Peace



Contribution ID: 65

Type: Poster

Effect of Body Size and Food Quality on the Assimilation of 65Zn and 110mAg in Bloody Cockles (Anadara Senilis) from Ghana

Thursday, 27 August 2015 14:00 (1h 30m)

In coastal ecosystems where bivalves are often exposed to metal contamination, dietary exposure has been recognised as a dominant uptake pathway of trace metals in bivalves. The present study employed radiotracers (65Zn and 110mAg) to assess the assimiliation efficiency (AE) of the two elements in Bloody cockles (Anadara senilis) from Narkwa Lagoon, Ghana. AE is an important parameter in determining bioavailability of trace elements from food. Zn and Ag bioavailability was assessed using single-feeding approach, followed by a 28-day depuration period, with two species of phytoplankton (Isochrysis galbana and Skelotonema costatum) used as food, and two different size groups of Bloody Cockles. Results indicate that AE of 65Zn and 110mAg were influenced by the phytoplankton species used as food whereas, for both algal species, AE increased slightly with increasing cockle body size. Once taken up, 65Zn was relatively strongly retained in cockle's flesh (biological half-live: ~40 days) whereas 110mAg was rapidly released (biological half-live: ~5 days). A complementary experiment -using subcellular partitioning and in vitro digestion method- was performed to provide additional information on the proportion of 65Zn and 110mAg in the bloody cockle that is available for transfer to next trophic levels. Overall, this work highlighted that trace metal accumulation in marine filter feeders does depend on the metal bioavailability in food as well as on other biological factors, such as body size.

Country or International Organization

Ghana

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Session Classification: Session 11C: Posters: Energy, Environment, and Climate Change