

Water Research Webinar Series

Impacts of Micro and Nanoplastics on Marine Organisms

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET



A certificate of attendance will be offered for this webinar

Registration: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7617368997566/WN_if3F8dHSR1efl-qL5im7gA

As the abundance of plastic increases in marine systems, the potential risks of adverse biological and ecological effects of plastics of various size classes (macro-, micro-, nano-) need to be evaluated. EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) has spearheaded methods development for extraction and characterization of microplastics (MPs) and works collaboratively with many agencies and organizations to better understand the sources, fate, and transport of MPs. Additionally, ORD research assesses ecological and human health impacts of MPs, supported by the development of analytical methods to detect MPs in a variety of environmental samples. This talk will cover three topics: 1) background information on MPs, including source and prevalence in the marine environment, 2) current research investigating the impacts of MPs on stony coral, and 3) recent studies assessing the impacts of nanoplastics to communities of benthic marine fauna.



Cheryl Hankins, EPA Office of Research and Development

Cheryl Hankins is a research scientist with ORD's Gulf Ecosystem Measurement & Modeling Division and leads the Coral Research Facility located in Gulf Breeze, FL. Cheryl's research focuses on land-based sources of pollution and contaminants of emerging concern (including microplastics and UV filters) as they relate to coral reefs and has worked with multiple regional offices to address these issues. Cheryl was ORD's lead for The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council's Microplastic Outreach Toolkit and is the Output Lead for ORD's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Microplastics Research Area.