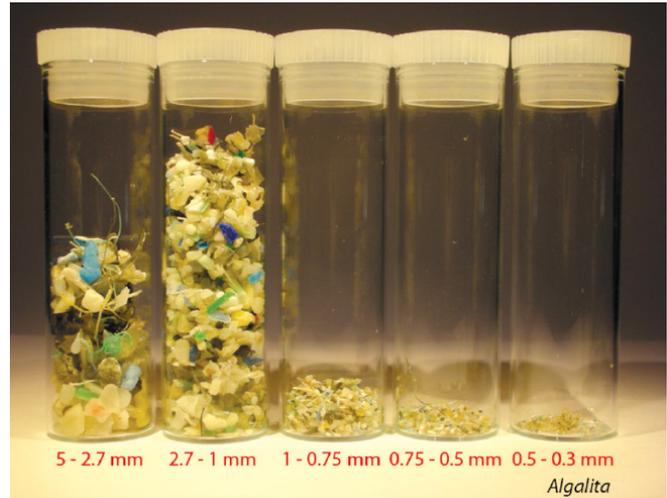




## HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

It is unknown whether there are any human health effects from exposure to microplastics in drinking water. There is some evidence that microplastics behave like natural particles and adsorb and transport contaminants, however, more research is needed to determine the effects of ingestion of microplastic particles and whether there are additional effects from contaminants contained within plastics. The health effects from microplastics are likely to be different from those of nanoparticles, which are much smaller particles compared to microplastics. Much work remains to be done to characterize and understand the human health effects of microplastics specific to ingestion in drinking water (Lehner et al 2019, Koelmans et al 2017). The SWRCB convened a Microplastics Health Effects Workshop in 2020 to develop human health thresholds for microplastics exposure. The workshop concluded that further research is needed to develop health-based guidance levels for regulatory purposes.



Size distribution of plastics from Manta trawl (sample from water surface with net). Microplastics measured between 0.5 to 0.3 mm could pass through a modern-day filtration treatment plant (WRF, 2018).

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