

Title Incidence of *Listeria* spp. in fish and environment of fish markets in Northern Greece
Author Nikolaos Soultos, Amin Abraham, Konstantinos Papageorgiou and Vasilios Steris
Citation Food Control, Volume 18, Issue 5 , May 2007, Pages 554-557
Keywords *Listeria* spp.; Incidence; Fish; Greece

Abstract

The incidence of *Listeria* spp. in the salt-water edible fish and in the environment of fish markets in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece was studied. One hundred and twenty raw/fresh fish bought at the fish markets of Thessaloniki (Northern Greece), were sampled and tested for presence of *Listeria* species using a two step enrichment procedure, followed by plating on two selective agars and subsequent biochemical identification of the isolates. Five fish samples were positive for *Listeria* spp. and in only one sample *L. monocytogenes* was detected. Also, 100 samples of knives, hands, boxes etc were sampled and 18 samples were positive for *Listeria* spp. and five for *L. monocytogenes*. *L. innocua* was more common being detected in four fish samples and 13 environmental samples. *L. seeligeri* was detected only in one environmental sample. Our findings indicate that only a few fish were contaminated with *Listeria* spp., while the level of contamination of the environment of fish markets was higher.