



CITATION

Research on microplastics in South Africa's inland river systems is extremely sparse. Mrs Mokgawa investigated the accumulation of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) microplastics in the Mozambique tilapia, *Oreochromis mossambicus*. Through rigorous laboratory trials and field assessments along the Olifants River System, the study revealed that PET microplastics present in the aquatic environment accumulate in fish body tissues, particularly in the liver and gut. The research revealed a critical correlation between high microplastic concentrations and severe physiological stress, including metabolic disruptions, tissue necrosis and death in fish. The research was presented at an international conference and at three national conferences.