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Trophic structure and HBCD biomagnification in a marine foodweb from aquaculture farm, South Korea

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Hexabromocyclododecanes (HBCD) is a widely used brominated flame retardants globally, and has been found widely distributed in the environment. Many HBCD sources are located at the southern coast and the released HBCD may enter into the coastal ecosystem. There is a harmful effect that HBCD can transfer through the food web to the diet of human. Therefore, it is important to trace the contamination in the organisms for food safety and human health as a further investigation. The main objectives of this study here: (1) to examine the levels of HBCD diastereoisomers (α -, β -, γ -HBCD) in fish collected from the coast; (2) to illustrate the trophic transfer of HBCD and the impact from the marine food web structure; (3) to assess the dietary exposure of HBCD via consumption of the fish for the human. Variation was observed for the bioaccumulation of HBCD between the detrital food chain and grazing food chain. In the studied species, the anchovy was most contaminated which may be caused by its feeding on detritus. At the same time, the transfer of HBCD along the food web was investigated, and HBCD was biomagnified from the prey to the predator in the grazing food chains. Among the three diastereoisomers, α -HBCD was biomagnified with increasing trophic levels in the food web while β -HBCD and γ -HBCD were not. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to examine the HBCD biomagnification for both fish and marine invertebrate through stable isotope analysis in aquaculture farm.