

SIZE GRADIENT ACCUMULATION OF METALS, IN A FISH SPECIES, *OREOCHROMIS NILOTICA PETERS* EXPOSED IN WASTE WATER ECOSYSTEM

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ABSTRACT : *Oreochromis nilotica*,(Peters) thrives well in the polluted environment of the sewage-fed wetlands of Kolkata which is, characterized by low oxygen tension and high organic and inorganic contaminants. Quantitative metal analysis in the different tissues of the fish of various body weights is assessed by atomic absorption spectrophotometric method which reveals high level of metals in the various tissues. The fish is thus used as a tool to assess extent of pollution in the system. Liver shows increased copper level with the age of the fish .In muscle, skin, gills and kidney, accumulation of copper is low, but zinc and lead tend to rise with body weight. Cadmium level remains low and invariant although the concentration factor in the tissues, with respect to the cadmium concentration in the water is relatively high.
