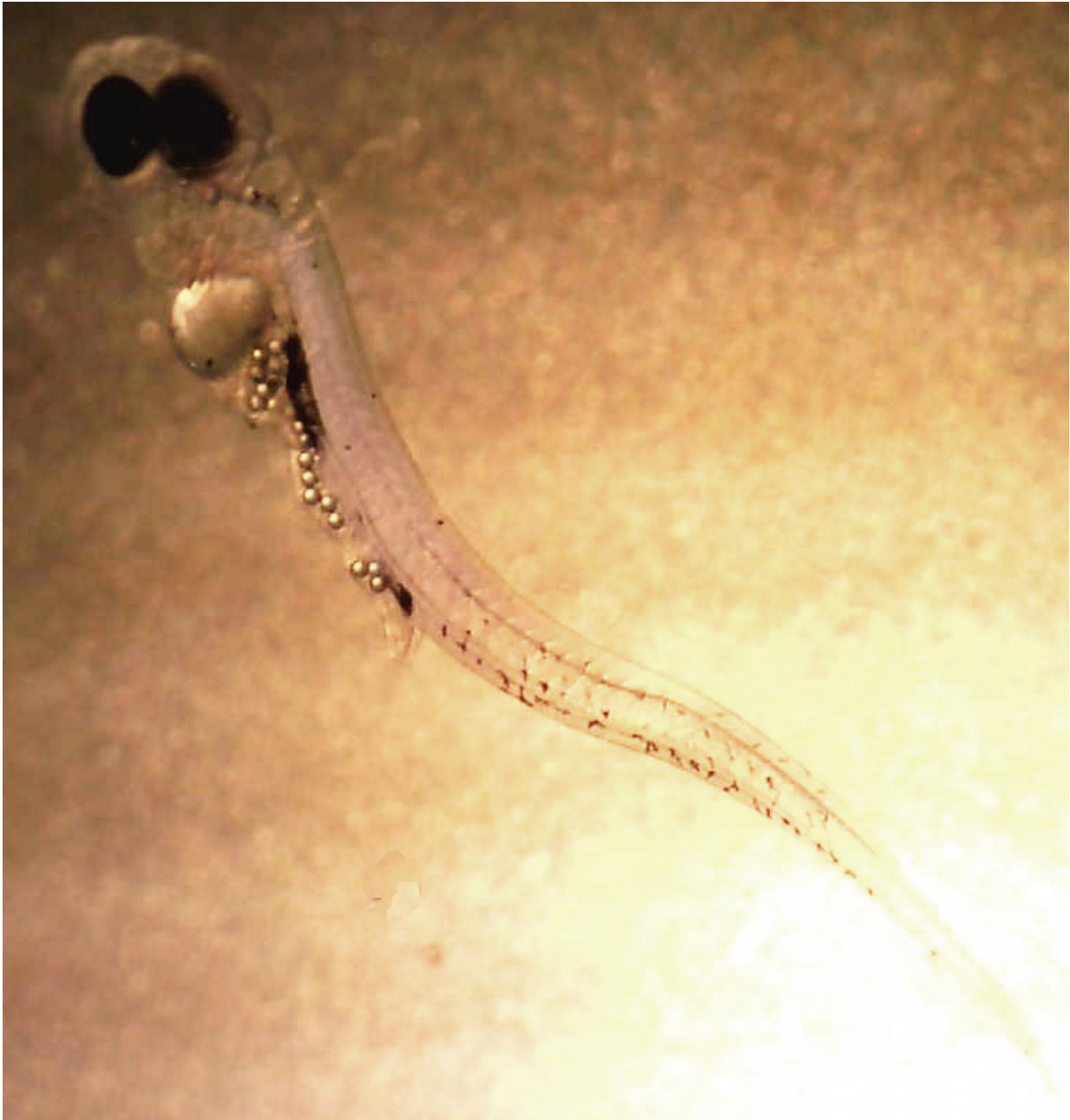


# Microplastic particles threaten fish larvae

June 2 2016

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Larval perch from the Baltic Sea that has filled its stomach with microplastic waste particles. Credit: Oona Lönnstedt

In a new study, published in *Science*, researchers from Uppsala University found that larval fish exposed to microplastic particles during development displayed changed behaviors and stunted growth which lead to greatly increased mortality rates. The researchers discovered that larval perch that had access to microplastic particles only ate plastic and ignored their natural food source of free-swimming zooplankton.

Microplastic [particles](#) (defined as [plastic particles](#))

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