

ABSTRACT

Mackerel is one of the small pelagic fish that lives in coastal waters or oceanic and forms large schools that have planktivorous or omnivorous eating habits with a varied food composition such as diatoms, dinoflagellates, copepods, crustaceans, and small fish. Mackerel has a high nutritional content with 17-23% protein and contains omega 3 and omega 6 which are good for disease prevention, can improve fat levels in the body and provide nutrients to the brain. Its wide distribution and including omnivorous fish causes mackerel to be potentially attacked by diseases such as parasitic organisms. Prevalence shows the percentage of fish infected by a particular parasite in a fish population. This study aims to identify the types of worms found in mackerel and determine the prevalence of worms found in mackerel (*Rastrelliger* sp.) in Lhokseumawe City. This research was conducted in April-May 2025 using purposive sampling method and the data were analyzed descriptively presented in the form of figures and tables. Based on the research that has been carried out, parasitic worms of *Anisakis* sp. larvae stage three were found to infect the intestines of mackerel (*Rastrelliger* sp.) caught at TPI Lhokseumawe City. The prevalence value at Station 1 is 0% which means there are no fish infected with parasitic worms, while at Station 2 the prevalence value is 40% classified into the General infection category, and at Station 3 the prevalence value 20% classified into the Frequent infection category. High prevalence values tend to belong to waters that are polluted or rich in intermediate hosts such as crustaceans or small fish.

Keywords: *Anisakis* sp., worms, mackerel, parasite, prevalence