



Tripp Valdez, A., Felipe Galvan Magaña & **S. Ortega García** (2010). Feeding habits of dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the southeastern Gulf of California, Mexico. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 26(4): 576-582. DOI: 10.1111/j.1439-0426.2010.01483.x

Feeding habits of dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the southeastern Gulf of California, Mexico

Arturo Tripp Valdez, Felipe Galvan Magaña & Sofía Ortega García

The objective of the study was to identify key elements of the feeding ecology of the dolphinfish, which is a high tropic predator important for sport and artisanal fishing in the Mexican Pacific. Feeding habits were investigated during the years 2000–2003. This species is seasonal in the southern Gulf of California and probably remains there because of the abundant prey. The contents of 232 dolphinfish stomachs were analyzed, identifying 98 prey species, although only eight of these were well-represented in the diet. The most important prey by weight was the fish *Hemiramphus saltator*, however by number and frequency of occurrence was the crustacean *Hemisquilla californiensis*. No differences in the diet were found between males and females, although there was an ontogenic diet shift between seasons. There was no relationship between dolphinfish size and prey size, because dolphinfish fed preferentially on prey with an average size of 4.7 cm.

Palabras clave: feeding habits, *Coryphaena hippurus*, Dolphinfish

Para obtener copia del documento contacta con el autor (sortega@ipn.mx) o con el personal de la biblioteca (bibliocicimar@ipn.mx).