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Spatial distribution of small pelagic fish larvae in the Gulf of California and its relation to El Niño 1997-1998

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Sardinops caeruleus larvae were almost absent during the El Niño 1997–1998, when the sea surface temperature (SST) increased by 4°C. After the event, these larvae appeared in high abundance between 18 and 22°C SST. *Engraulis mordax* larvae were recorded in high abundance during the El Niño (17 and 25°C SST) and afterwards (14 and 22°C). During the event, they tended to concentrate close to Isla Angel de La Guarda and Isla Tiburón, the coldest zone. The El Niño conditions affected the spawning of *S.caeruleus* more than *E.mordax*, with the latter more adapted to strong environmental changes.

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