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## Stable isotope differences between sea lions (*Zalophus*) from the Gulf of California and Galapagos Islands

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Spatial or temporal isotopic variation, or both, in primary producers must be controlled for when investigating the foraging and trophic ecology of top consumers using isotopic data. Populations of the sister species *Zalophus californianus* and *Z. wolfebaeki* are separated by approximately 3,350 km in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, which prevents contact and mixing between the 2 populations. To explore differences in trophic ecology between these species, as well as the impact of differences in baseline food-web isotope values between the 2 regions, we compared conventional dietary data derived from analyses of scat contents to isotopic values of hair collected from pups at 13 rookeries in the Gulf of California (*Z. californianus*) and 11 rookeries on the Galápagos Islands (*Z. wolfebaeki*). Mean  $\pm$  1 SD

Palabras clave: feeding habits, stable isotopes, trophic level, Carbon, nitrogen, sea lions.

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