Penguin diet

The 1392 prey items identified included 16 fish species, one squid and one prawn, but four fishes comprised most of the birds' diet. *Hyperlophus vittatus* (sandy sprat)was taken throughout the year, *Sardinops neopilchardus*and *Hyporhamphus melanochir (*garfish)mainly in winter and *Spratelloides robustus*during spring/summer. Major food items are small schooling fish (76%), squid (24%), and occasionally krill (small shrimps, 1%). The penguin feeds only in surface waters as they are not deep divers,

Little penguins eat fish and squid, particularly small clupeiform fish, such as anchovy *Engraulis australis australis* and pilchard *Sardinops sagax* (Cullen et al. 1992, Chiaradia et al. 2012). Anchovies form a significant dietary component for Phillip Island penguins, particularly in winter when they forage in Port Phillip Bay (McCutcheon et al. 2011).

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| **prey item** | **probability of consuming** |
| SAR Sardines | 0.3 |
| CEP Cephalopod | 0.1 |
| ZKL Krill | 0.01 |

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