Pinniped Australian fur seals, New Zeland fur seals

Australian Fur Seals feed on a variety of bony fish species plus squid and octopus.

**Table 2** Numerical abundance of prey identified from hard-parts present in 35 faecal samples collected at each of three Australian fur seal

colonies, Seal Rocks, Lady Julia Percy Island (LJP) and The Skerries, in December–January 2007–2008

Scientific name (common name)

count %

*Emmelichthys nitidus* (redbait) 197 46.9

*Trachurus declivis* (jack mackerel) 110 26.2

Fam. Monocanthidae (leatherjacket spp.) 21 5.0

Silver trevally (*Pseudocaranx dentex*) 3 3.1

*Thyrsites atun* (barracouta) 10 2.4

*Sardinops sagax* (Australian pilchard) 6 1.4

*Pseudophycis bachus* (red cod) 5 1.2

*Platycephalus richardsoni* (tiger flathead) 4 1.0

*Fam. Platycephalidae* (flathead spp.) 4 1.0

*Scomber australasicus* (blue mackerel) 4 1.0

*Platycephalus bassensis* (sand flathead) 3 0.7

*Helicolenus percoides* (reef ocean perch) 3 0.7

*Lepidotrigla* sp. (gurnard spp.) 2 0.5

*Fam. Labridae* (wrasse spp.) 1 0.2

*Sillago flindersi* (eastern school whiting) 1 0.2

*Argentina australiae* (silverside) 1 0.2

*Parequula melbournensis* (silverbelly) 1 0.2

*Beryx decadactylus* (imperador) 1 0.2

*Lampanyctes australis* (Austral lanternfish) 1 0.2

*Caesioperca rasor* (barber perch) 1 0.2

*Trachurus novaezelandiae* (yellowtail scud) 1 0.2

*Centroberyx affinis* (redfish) 1 0.2

*Fam. Moridae* (unknown morid) 1 0.2

Unknown Teleostei spp. 16 3.8

Unknown Anguilliformes 1 0.2

Cephalopods *Nototodarus gouldi* (arrow squid) 6 1.4

*Octopus* sp. 2 0.5

Unknown cephalopod 3 0.7

Crustacea Unknown crab 2 0.5

Jack mackerel, redbait, Blue Mackerel, Barracouta, other fish

In Tasmanian waters, fish were the most prevalent prey taxa in the diet of ***Arctocephalus pusillus dorlferus,*** with cephalopods occurring less frequently. Occurrence of crustaceans and birds was negligible. Twenty-five species of fish were identified from faecal and regurgitate samples, with redbait ***(Emmelichthys nitidus),*** jack mackerel ***(Trachurus declivis)*** and leatherjackets (Monacanthidae) constituting the main prey species. Size estimates of prey indicated that mainly adult fish and squid were eaten.

Most samples contained remains of a single species, suggesting the use of monospecific aggregations of prey items.

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| **prey item** | **probability of consuming** |
| FPK pelagic planktivores | 0.3 |
| FSR small reef associated | 0.1 |
| CEP Cephalopod | 0.05 |

References

Analysis of Australian fur seal diet by pyrosequencing prey DNA in faeces

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