

Feeding Biology of Indian Mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagurta*) in Hormozgan Province waters (Persian Gulf)

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Abstract

Feeding biology of Indian mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagurta*) was investigated from autumn 2011 to summer 2012 in the northern waters of Persian Gulf (Hormozgan Province waters). Random samples of this species were collected seasonally. Stomach contents analysis of 180 samples indicated that the planktons were main food of this species (93%) and followed by random food included (fish 7%) Zooplanktons were more than %55 (phytoplankton 45%). The main zooplanktons were crustacea (81%) and mollusks (10%). Copepod were dominant (71%) in crustacea. Among phytoplankton Bacillariophyceae were the main food (79%) which followed by Dynophyceae (20%) and Cyanophyceae (%1). *Engraulis sp.* (7%) was the only fish that found in stomach contents. Stomach emptiness index (CV) and Fullness Index (FI) for this species were calculated 36.1 and 29.44, respectively. Maximum and minimum of GSI were calculated 2.15 and 1.12 in autumn and winter, respectively. Condition factor (CF) and the relative length of the gut (RLG) were calculated 1769.97 and 2.39, respectively, during the study period.

Keywords: *Rastrelliger kanagurta*, Feeding, Stomach content analysis, Persian Gulf, Hormozgan.