

UPDATED TAXONOMIC LIST OF FISH LARVAE FROM BAHÍA SEBASTIÁN VIZCAÍNO, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT. Larvae of 152 fish families were identified in the California Current between 1949-1984 through the CalCOFI Program. Sampling efforts in the southern California Current restarted in 1997 with the ongoing IMECOCAL Program, which includes the transitional area of Bahía Sebastián Vizcaíno (BSV). This work updates the fish larvae taxonomic list of BSV, summarizing the 20-year sampling efforts. Results showed 341 identified *taxa* (227 to species level, 60 to genus and 54 to family), representing 98 families. The most abundant were Phosichthyidae (37%), Myctophidae (14%) and Synodontidae (9%). Pelagic neritic species *Engraulis mordax* (Engraulidae) and *Sardinops sagax* (Clupeidae) showed their maximum larval abundance during spring and winter, respectively. Myctophidae contributed with the highest species richness (39 *taxa* in 20 genera), followed by the reef-associated Sebastidae (21 *taxa* in the *Sebastes* genus). Identified *taxa* were mostly from southern (tropical) zoogeographic affinity (80%), and a minor component had northern (boreal) affinity (8%) or wide distribution in the northeastern Pacific Ocean (12%). The highest larval abundance and species richness were registered during summer (207 *taxa*) and fall (219 *taxa*). In winter and spring, larval abundance and richness decreased almost 50%, however the number of dominant species was higher. The previous ichthyoplankton list for BSV included only samples taken during 1997-2001 and reported larvae of 186 *taxa* in 71 families, where mesopelagic larvae contributed with most of the abundance and taxonomic richness (>20%). Seasonal abundance of pelagic neritic species showed a spawning preference for spring and summer conditions. For demersal species, diversity and abundance increased during fall. With this work we increase from 186 to 341 registered *taxa*, most of them associated to demersal reef habitats with southern distribution. One third of the *taxa* found (114) could not be identified to species level, highlighting the urgency for more taxonomic studies of ichthyoplankton in the area.

Keywords: Southern California Current; IMECOCAL; CalCOFI; Fish Larvae

Lista taxonómica actualizada de larvas de peces de Bahía Sebastián Vizcaíno, Baja California, México

RESUMEN. Las larvas de 152 familias de peces fueron identificadas en la Corriente de California durante 1949-1984 a través del programa CALCOFI. El esfuerzo de muestreo en la parte sur de la Corriente de California se reinició en 1997 con el programa aun en operación, IMECOCAL, el cual incluye el área transicional de Bahía Sebastián Vizcaíno (BSV). Este trabajo actualiza la lista taxonómica de larvas de peces de BSV, resumiendo 20 años de esfuerzos de muestreo. Los resultados muestran 341 *taxa* identificados (227 a nivel especie, 60 a género y 54 a familia), representando 98 familias. Los más abundantes fueron Phosichthyidae (37%), Myctophidae (14%) y Synodontidae (9%). Las especies pelágico neríticas *Engraulis mordax* (Engraulidae) y *Sardinops sagax* (Clupeidae) mostraron su máxima abundancia larval durante primavera e invierno, respectivamente. Myctophidae contribuyó con la mayor riqueza de especies (39 *taxa* en 20 géneros), seguido de los asociados con arrecifes Sebastidae (21 *taxa* en el género *Sebastes*). Los *taxa* identificados fueron en su mayoría (80%) de afinidad zoogeográfica sureña (tropical), y un menor componente (8%) tuvo una afinidad nortea (boreal) o de distribución amplia en el noroeste del Océano Pacífico (12%). La mayor abundancia larval y riqueza de especies fue registrada durante el verano (207 *taxa*) y otoño (219 *taxa*). En invierno y primavera, la abundancia larval y la riqueza de especies decreció casi un 50%, aunque el número de especies dominantes fue alto. La lista ictioplanctónica para BSV incluía solo muestras tomadas durante 1997-2001 y larvas reportadas de 186 *taxa* en 71 familias, donde las larvas meopelágicas contribuyeron con la mayoría de la abundancia y riqueza taxonómica (>20%). La abundancia estacional de especies pelágico neríticas mostró una preferencia de desove en condiciones de primavera y verano. Para especies demersales, la diversidad y abundancia se incrementó en otoño. Con este trabajo incrementamos de 186 a 341 *taxa* registrados, la mayoría asociado a hábitas arrecifales demersales con distribución sureña. Un tercio de los *taxa* encontrados (114) no pudieron ser identificados a nivel especie, remarcando la urgencia de más estudios taxonómicos de ictioplancton en el área.

Palabras clave: Sur de la Corriente de California, IMECOCAL, CalCOFI, larvas de peces.

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INTRODUCTION

The California Current (CC) is one of the most extensively surveyed regions of the world (Durazo & Baumgartner, 2002). In the area it covers, there is a convergence of three coastal zoogeographic provinces (Oregonian, Californian, and Mexican), a coastal upwelling zone and three oceanic water masses (Central Pacific, Eastern Tropical Pacific and Subarctic) (Hubbs, 1960; Moser *et al.* 1993).

Larvae of 152 fish families have been recorded since 1949, in an ambitious sampling program, the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations Program (CalCOFI). Until 1984, the pelagic ecosystem off Baja California, Mexico, was included in the CalCOFI sampling grid (Hewitt, 1988; Durazo & Baumgartner, 2002). Afterwards, in 1997, the ongoing Investigaciones Mexicanas de la Corriente de California Program (IMECOCAL) restarted the sampling efforts, covering the southern CC in

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Mexican waters, including Bahía Sebastián Vizcaíno (BSV; Figure 1) and the adjacent oceanic region, which is a Priority Marine Area (PMA) selected by the Mexican government due to its high biotic richness (Arriaga-Cabrera *et al.*, 1998). It is known that the fish larvae diversity in BSV is high, compared with the adjacent marine ecosystems. Jiménez-Rosenberg *et al.* (2007) reported for BSV, larvae of 186 taxa of 71 fish families collected during a four-year study period, which in turn represented 50% of the fish larvae *taxa* reported along the entire area throughout the 50 years of the CalCOFI program.

Our aim was to characterize the fish larvae community of BSV during the 20-year sampling period, where intense inter-annual environmental variability was observed, in order to highlight the possible effects on the pelagic ecosystem. This work presents an extended taxonomical list of the fish larvae collected in BSV and adjacent areas during 20 years of continuous sampling.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

BSV is located between 26°43'–29°04'N and 114°29'–115°58'W (Figure 1), and consists of an extensive shelf area of approximately 36,000 km² over the Pacific Plate (Arriaga-Cabrera *et al.* 1998) where to the west, the Cedros islands complex (Cedros, Natividad, and San Benito islands) limit the oceanic waters from those of the platform. The geographic limits of BSV are between Punta Baja (29° LN) and Punta Eugenia (26° LN), which encompasses the transition zone between the northern temperate-subarctic and the southern tropical-subtropical zooplanktonic fauna (Spalding *et al.*, 2007; Aceves-Medina *et al.*, 2019).

Sixty oceanographic surveys were carried out between September 1997 and April 2016 in BSV and the adjacent oceanic region. From these, 16 surveys were on winter, 16 on spring, 14 during summer and 14 on fall, with an average of 24 sampled stations each. Zooplankton collections followed the standard CalCOFI procedures described by Smith & Richardson (1977) and Kramer *et al.* (1972). As stated by Jiménez-Rosenberg *et al.* (2007), Bongo nets with 0.61 m mouth diameter, 3 m length and 505 µm net mesh, with a flow-meter installed on each mouth were used to collect pairs of samples. Only one sample of each pair was used in this study to analyze the fish larvae community. All fish larvae were sorted out from each sample and preserved in 4%-formalin buffered with sodium borate. Larvae were identified to species level when possible, using the morphologic and meristic characters and the pigmentation patterns described by Moser (1996). Those larvae that could not be identified to the species level were assigned to a morphotype number for family (type) or genus (sp.) levels. Those genera comprising a wide number of morphotypes were expressed as “spp.” and their larval abundances were summed.

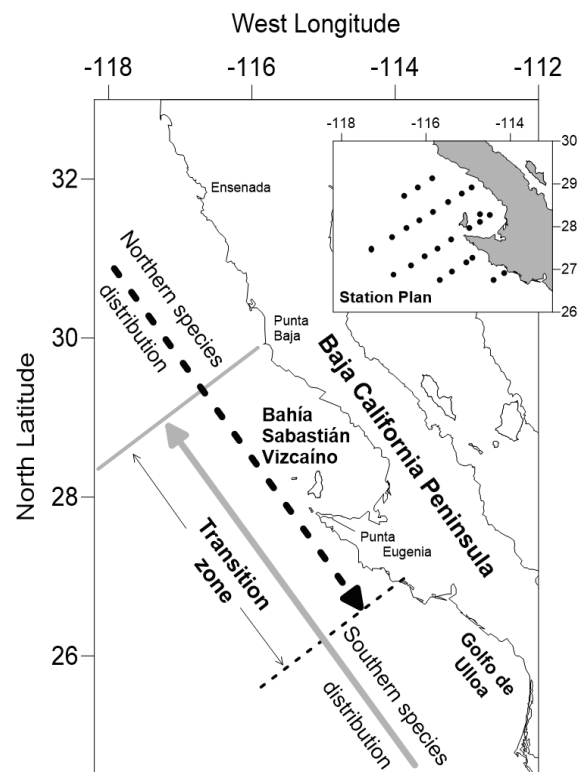


Figure 1. Study area and sampling station plan in Bahía Sebastián Vizcaíno. General scheme of northern (black dotted arrow and line) and southern (grey arrow and line) species distribution limits and the transition zone where they overlap (source: Aceves-Medina *et al.* 2019).

The number of larvae was standardized to 10 m² of sea surface (Smith & Richardson 1977). Adult habitat and zoogeographic affinity information for each identified *taxa* were obtained from Froese & Pauly (2019). The dominant fish *taxa* were obtained following the Olmstead–Tukey test (Sokal & Rohlf, 1994), which considers the abundance and relative frequency of each taxon.

The arrangement of the taxonomic list for orders and families follows the classification criteria of Nelson *et al.* (2016) and Fricke *et al.* (2019) for genera and species nomenclature. Distribution of species was consulted in <http://www.idigbio.org>, and voucher specimens of all species were cataloged and deposited in the “Colección Científica de Huevos y Larvas de Peces del Pacífico Mexicano (Acronym: Ictioplancton)”, at IPN-CICIMAR in La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico.

RESULTS

A total of 341 fish *taxa* were identified in their larval stages in BSV during the study period (Table 1). From these, 227 *taxa* were identified to species level, 60 to genus and 54 only to family level. Most of the larvae identified to the species level had already been registered in BSV (104 species), other 16

species were previously registered on the southern oceanic and coastal region off BSV, and 71 species in the adjacent oceanic region (Table 1).

Fourteen fish families contributed with 95% of the total larval abundance during the study period. During winter and summer, the most abundant species were from the bathypelagic habitat, such as the Panama lightfish *Vinciguerria lucetia* (Garman, 1899) (Phosichthyidae), and Myctophidae, was represented by up to 30 *taxa*. During fall, the Synodontidae family, represented mainly by *Synodus lucioceps* (Ayres, 1855), was the most abundant *taxa* (Table 2).

Pelagic neritic fishes belonging to families such as Engraulidae and Clupeidae were also abundant in BSV, with abundance peaks during spring and winter, respectively (Table 2). The Northern anchovy *Engraulis mordax* Girard, 1854 was the dominant species from winter to summer, and the South American pilchard *Sardinops sagax* (Jenyns, 1842) was dominant year-round (Table 1). Myctophidae contributed with the highest number of *taxa*, followed by reef-associated species of Scorpaenidae, represented by 13 morphotypes of the *Sebastes* genus (Tables 1 and 2).

Most of the fish *taxa* identified had mainly a southern zoogeographic affinity (tropical, subtropical), and a minor component were from northern affinity (subarctic, temperate) as well as of wide geographic distribution in the northeastern Pacific (Table 1).

The highest larval abundance and number of *taxa* were registered during summer (269,099 organisms; 207 *taxa*) and fall (170,556 organisms; 219 *taxa*), while in winter and spring larval abundance and richness decreased (86,409 organisms; 154 *taxa* and 130,374 organisms; 147 *taxa* respectively) (Table 2), whereas the number of dominant species was higher (Tables 1 and 2).

From the first 20 most abundant *taxa* ranked in BSV, 14 were between the most abundant species in the CalCOFI surveys, and most of them corresponded to species where adults distribute in the bathypelagic realm with subarctic and temperate zoogeographic affinity (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

The increase in the sampling effort for ichthyoplankton studies, from four to 20 years, showed an increment of approximately 50% of the previously registered *taxa* (186 to 341 *taxa*) in BSV and adjacent areas. The high diversity of fish larvae in BSV is a result of the environmental heterogeneity generated by the interaction of different water masses (Central Pacific, Eastern Tropical Pacific and Subarctic) and the intra and inter-annual environmental variability in the southern region of the CC (Aceves-Medina *et al.*, 2018; 2019; Bautista-Romero *et al.*, 2018).

In this work, larval fish species composition was dominated by the meso and bathypelagic species (71 %), similar to that found in the entire southern region of the CC by Jiménez-Rosenberg *et al.* (2007; 2010) who registered a relative abundance of deep-water species between 40-80%. In addition, Jiménez-Rosenberg *et al.* (2007, 2010) and Funes-Rodríguez *et al.* (2010) found that in short periods of time, deep-water fish fauna changed from a higher number and abundance of temperate affinity species during cold years, towards a community characterized by a higher number and dominance of tropical affinity species during warm years. However, in a more extended period (as in this work), no change was observed in the number of warm and cold species, rather, changes in the abundance of those species during warm and cold years, respectively, were observed. These changes seem to be related with longer scale processes, such as the PDO and NPGO, in which the abundance of temperate species remain similar between warm and cold periods, and the main changes are observed in the abundance of warm mesopelagic species (Aceves-Medina *et al.*, 2019).

In the case of pelagic neritic species such as *S. sagax* and *E. mordax*, their seasonal abundance variations in BSV showed their spawning preferences for spring and summer conditions, while both diversity and abundance of demersal species, showed an increase during fall (Aceves-Medina *et al.*, 2019). This is consistent, regardless the inter-annual variability, with the hydrographic characteristics off BSV, where in winter and spring subarctic water is predominant in the area, while wind speed and direction favors upwelling events and a higher primary productivity, whereas tropical-subtropical waters are predominant from the end of summer through fall (Durazo, 2009).

One important consideration for this taxonomic list is the presence of several species that constitute new records for BSV, such as the reef-associated Sabertooth blenny *Plagiotremus azalea* (Jordan & Bollman, 1890), registered in the Eastern Pacific from the Gulf of California to Perú, the Grunt sculpin *Rhamphocottus richardsonii* Günther, 1874, the demersal species distributed in the coasts from Alaska to Southern California, and the Black fathead *Cubiiceps baxteri* McCulloch, 1923, a widely distributed oceanic species (Froese & Pauly, 2019). Presence of larvae of these species in many cases could be a product of the expansion from their distribution areas by advection of water masses into BSV and its surroundings (Central Pacific, Eastern Tropical Pacific and Subarctic). Fish larvae expatriation is a frequent process reported in mesopelagic fishes such as the Firefly lanternfish *Hygophum proximum* Becker, 1965 and several species belonging to the *Benthoosema*, *Diaphus* and *Lobianchia* genus (Haedrich & Judkins, 1979; Zurbrigg & Scott, 1972). Most of

Table 1. *Taxa* list of fish larvae from Bahía Sebastián Vizcaíno (BSV) and their seasonal relative abundance: winter (WI), spring (SP), summer (SU), fall (FA). Adults of the species registered: in BSV (*); in the adjacent coastal region off BSV(^c); in the adjacent oceanic region (^o).

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
Albuliformes	Albulidae	<i>Albula gilberti</i> Pfeiler & van der Heiden, 2011	0.2			1
Notacanthiformes	Notacanthidae	Notacanthidae type 1				0.3
Anguilliformes	Muraenidae	Muraenidae type 1				0.3
		<i>Gymnothorax mordax</i> (Ayres, 1859)*				1
	Derichthyidae	<i>Derichthys serpentinus</i> Gill, 1884*				0.5
	Ophichthidae	Ophichthidae type 1		1		
		<i>Myrophis vafer</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1882*	0.3			
		<i>Ophichthus</i> sp 1				0.3
		<i>Ophichthus triserialis</i> (Kaup 1856)				3
		<i>Ophichthus zophochir</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1882*	2	1		4
	Nettastomatidae	<i>Facciolella gilbertii</i> (Garman, 1899)*	5	0.4	0.3	2
	Congridae	Congridae type 1			0.4	1
		Congridae type 19				1
		Congridae type 20				1
		<i>Ariosoma gilberti</i> (Ogilby, 1898)	0.3			
		<i>Gnathophis cinctus</i> (Garman, 1899)*	1	1	1	2
	Saccopharyngidae	Saccopharyngidae type 1				1
		<i>Saccopharynx lavenbergi</i> Nielsen & Bertelsen, 1985		0.3		
	Nemichthyidae	Nemichthyidae type 1				0.3
Clupeiformes	Engraulidae	Engraulidae type 1			1	
		<i>Engraulis mordax</i> Girard, 1854*	357	1352	277	14
	Clupeidae	<i>Etrumeus acuminatus</i> Gilbert, 1890*	31	7	24	12
		<i>Opisthonema</i> sp 1*			0.3	3
		<i>Sardinops sagax</i> (Jenyns, 1842)*	519	611	241	74
Osmeriformes	Argentinidae	<i>Argentina sialis</i> Gilbert, 1890*	6	8	16	3
	Microstomatidae	<i>Microstoma</i> sp 1	3	3	1	2
		<i>Nansenia</i> sp 1	3	1		1
		<i>Nansenia candida</i> Cohen, 1958 ^c	11	3	4	
		<i>Nansenia crassa</i> Lavenberg, 1965*	9	10	4	1
		<i>Nansenia pelagica</i> Kawaguchi & Butler, 1984	1	2	1	
	Bathylagidae	<i>Lipolagus ochotensis</i> (Schmidt, 1938)*	3	19	1	
		<i>Bathylagoides wesethi</i> (Bolin, 1938)*	104	390	537	186
		<i>Leuroglossus stilbius</i> Gilbert, 1890*	227	294	35	7
Stomiiformes	Gonostomatidae	<i>Cyclothone acclinidens</i> Garman, 1899 ^o	14	15	79	63
		<i>Cyclothone pseudopallida</i> Mukhacheva, 1964 ^o			0.5	1
		<i>Cyclothone signata</i> Garman, 1899 ^o	116	101	150	204
		<i>Cyclothone</i> sp 1		2		1
		<i>Diplophos taenia</i> Günther, 1873 ^o			0.2	4

Table 1. Continued.

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
	Sternoptychidae	Sternoptychidae type 1				0.2
		<i>Argyropelecus affinis</i> Garman, 1899 ^o	0.3	1	1	0.5
		<i>Argyropelecus lychnus</i> Garman, 1899 ^o	1	1	3	
		<i>Argyropelecus sladeni</i> Regan, 1908 ^o	2	2	3	0.5
		<i>Sternoptyx</i> sp 1	1		1	1
		<i>Sternoptyx</i> sp 2				0.4
	Phosichthyidae	<i>Ichthyococcus irregularis</i> Rehnitz & Böhlke, 1958 ^o	11	15	16	14
		<i>Vinciguerria lucetia</i> (Garman, 1899) ^o	1415	1459	10297	3610
	Stomiidae	<i>Stomias atriventer</i> Garman, 1899 ^o	135	32	22	31
		<i>Astronesthes</i> sp 1	1			0.4
		<i>Chauliodus macouni</i> Bean, 1890 ^c			1	
		<i>Bathophilus filifer</i> (Garman, 1899)	0.3	0.2	0.3	
		<i>Bathophilus flemingi</i> Aron & McCreery, 1958 ^o		0.5	2	
		<i>Idiacanthus antrostomus</i> Gilbert, 1890 ^o	1		1	3
		<i>Aristostomias scintillans</i> (Gilbert, 1915) ^c	2	1	1	1
Aulopiformes	Synodontidae	<i>Synodus</i> sp 1			0.4	
		<i>Synodus</i> sp 3				0.3
		<i>Synodus lucioiceps</i> (Ayres, 1855)*	185	2	40	3873
	Aulopidae	<i>Aulopus bajacali</i> Parin & Kotlyar, 1984 ^c				1
	Notosudidae	<i>Scopelosaurus harryi</i> (Mead, 1953) ^c	0.2	1		1
	Scopelarchidae	<i>Rosenblattichthys volucris</i> (Rofen, 1966) ^o	1	2	2	9
		<i>Scopelarchoides nicholsi</i> Parr, 1929 ^o	1	0.2	1	0.3
		<i>Scopelarchus analis</i> (Brauer, 1902) ^o	1	0.3	1	3
		<i>Scopelarchus guentheri</i> Alcock, 1896 ^o	10	4	12	24
		<i>Scopelarchus</i> sp 1			0.4	
	Evermannellidae	<i>Evermannella ahlstromi</i> Johnson & Glodek, 1975			1	0.3
	Paralepididae	<i>Arctozenus risso</i> (Bonaparte, 1840)			1	1
		<i>Lestidiops neles</i> (Harry, 1953) ^c	0.3	0.2	0.2	
		<i>Lestidiops ringens</i> (Jordan & Gilbert, 1880) ^o	12	24	20	18
		<i>Stemonosudis</i> sp1			0.4	
		<i>Stemonosudis macrura</i> (Ege, 1933) ^c	0.2		0.3	1
Myctophiformes	Myctophidae	Myctophidae type 1		1		
		<i>Benthoosema panamense</i> (Tåning, 1932) ^o			2	
		<i>Diogenichthys atlanticus</i> (Tåning, 1928) ^o	37	22	29	93
		<i>Diogenichthys laternatus</i> (Garman, 1899) ^o	1099	906	721	762
		<i>Electrona risso</i> (Cocco, 1829) ^o	0.2			3
		<i>Gonichthys tenuiculus</i> (Garman, 1899) ^o	54	27	14	18
		<i>Hygophum atratum</i> (Garman, 1899) ^o	37	10	22	12
		<i>Hygophum reinhardtii</i> (Lütken, 1892) ^o	14	6	10	6

Table 1. Continued.

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
		<i>Loweina</i> sp 1	0.2	0.4		
		<i>Loweina rara</i> (Lütken, 1892) ^o	4	1	3	3
		<i>Myctophum nitidulum</i> Garman, 1899 ^o	20	8	25	25
		<i>Parvilux ingens</i> Hubbs & Wisner, 1964 ^o	1			
		<i>Protomyctophum crockeri</i> (Bolin, 1939) ^o	70	64	70	39
		<i>Protomyctophum thompsoni</i> (Chapman, 1944) ^o				3
		<i>Symbolophorus californiensis</i> (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1889) ^o	36	84	59	19
		<i>Symbolophorus evermanni</i> (Gilbert, 1905) ^o	1	2		1
		<i>Tarletonbeania</i> sp 1		0.2		
		<i>Tarletonbeania crenularis</i> (Jordan & Gilbert, 1880) ^o	0.4	2	3	1
		<i>Ceratoscopelus townsendi</i> (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1889) ^o	20	33	249	52
		<i>Diaphus pacificus</i> Parr, 1931 ^o		0.3	1	2
		<i>Diaphus theta</i> Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1890 ^o	0.4	0.2	6	1
		<i>Lampadena urophaos</i> Paxton, 1963 ^o	2	2	56	27
		<i>Lampanyctus</i> sp 1		0.5		
		<i>Lampanyctus acanthurus</i> Wisner, 1974			5	
		<i>Lampanyctus parvicauda</i> Parr, 1931 ^o	3	1	2	1
		<i>Lampanyctus steinbecki</i> Bolin, 1939		1	1	
		<i>Lampanyctus tenuiformis</i> (Brauer 1906)			0.3	
		<i>Nannobranchium</i> sp 1	4	3		
		<i>Nannobranchium</i> sp 2	1			
		<i>Nannobranchium idostigma</i> (Parr, 1931) ^o	30	15	17	18
		<i>Nannobranchium bristori</i> Zahuranec, 2000	1	1	1	1
		<i>Nannobranchium hawaiiensis</i> Zahuranec, 2000 ^o	2		2	2
		<i>Nannobranchium regale</i> (Gilbert, 1892) ^o	2	1	0.5	1
		<i>Nannobranchium ritteri</i> (Gilbert, 1915) ^o	54	112	35	26
		<i>Notolychnus valdiviae</i> (Brauer, 1904) ^o		1	6	1
		<i>Notoscopelus resplendens</i> (Richardson, 1845) ^o	6	7	122	20
		<i>Stenobranchius leucopsarus</i> (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1890) ^o	1	4		
		<i>Triphoturus mexicanus</i> (Gilbert, 1890) ^o	196	1175	3692	1401
		<i>Triphoturus nigrescens</i> (Brauer, 1904) ^o			0.4	
Lampriformes	Regaliciidae	<i>Regalecus glesne</i> Ascanius, 1772				2
	Lophotidae	<i>Desmodema lorum</i> Rosenblatt & Butler, 1977 ^o	0.3	1	1	2
	Trachiteridae	<i>Trachipterus altivelis</i> Kner, 1859 ^o	0.2	2	1	
		<i>Zu cristatus</i> (Bonelli, 1819) ^o			1	3

Table 1. Continued.

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
Gadiformes	Macrouridae	Macrouridae type 1	0.3			
		<i>Caelorinchus scaphopsis</i> (Gilbert, 1890)	0.3			
		<i>Nezumia</i> sp 1	0.3			
	Moridae	Moridae type 1				0.3
		<i>Physiculus nematopus</i> Gilbert, 1890 ^o	3	0.2		2
		<i>Physiculus rastrelliger</i> Gilbert, 1890 ^o	3		3	1
	Merlucciidae	<i>Merluccius productus</i> (Ayres, 1855) ^o	21	121	2	5
	Bregmacerotidae	<i>Bregmaceros bathymaster</i> Jordan & Bollman, 1890 ^o	0.2		0.2	
		<i>Bregmaceros</i> sp 1	1			
	Beryciformes	Melamphaidae	Melamphaidae type 1		0.3	
Melamphaidae type 2					0.3	
Melamphaidae type 3					1	
Melamphaidae type 4					0.3	
Melamphaidae type 5					1	
Melamphaidae type 6						0.2
<i>Melamphaes lugubris</i> Gilbert, 1890			15	25	41	37
<i>Melamphaes</i> sp 1			2	2	5	2
<i>Poromitra crassiceps</i> (Günther, 1878) ^o			1	2	1	0.4
<i>Scopelogadus mizolepis</i> (Günther, 1878) ^o			1	2	7	3
Ophidiiformes			Carapidae	<i>Echiodon exsilium</i> Rosenblatt, 1961	1	
	Ophidiidae	Ophidiidae type 3				0.5
Ophidiidae type 4				1		
Ophidiidae type 6				1		
<i>Chilara taylori</i> (Girard, 1858) ^o		7	1	9	35	
<i>Lepophidium negropinna</i> Hildebrand & Barton, 1949 ^o				11	148	
<i>Lepophidium</i> sp 1				1		
<i>Lepophidium</i> sp 2					1	
<i>Lepophidium</i> sp 4					0.2	
<i>Lepophidium stigmatistium</i> (Gilbert, 1890)*				1	1	
<i>Ophidion</i> sp 1			0.5		6	
<i>Ophidion scrippsae</i> (Hubbs, 1916) ^o		2	2	31	78	
	Bythitidae	Bythitidae type 1			0.5	
		<i>Cataetyx rubrirostris</i> Gilbert, 1890 ^o		1		
Kurtiformes	Apogonidae	<i>Apogon atricaudus</i> Jordan & McGregor, 1898 ^c	0.2			1
		<i>Apogon retrosella</i> (Gill, 1862)*				1
Gobiiformes	Eleotridae	Eleotridae type 2				1
		<i>Dormitator latifrons</i> (Richardson, 1844) ^c	0.3	0.4		
		<i>Eleotris picta</i> Kner, 1863 ^o	1			0.3
		<i>Erotelis armiger</i> (Jordan & Richardson, 1895)				2

Table 1. Continued.

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
	Gobiidae	Gobiidae type 1	0.4			1
		Gobiidae type 4			0.2	
		Gobiidae type 11			1	
		Gobiidae type 16				0.3
		Gobiidae type 18				1
		Gobiidae type 19				3
		<i>Bollmannia</i> sp 1				3
		<i>Ctenogobius manglicola</i> (Jordan & Starks, 1895)	3		0.3	12
		<i>Ctenogobius sagittula</i> (Günther, 1862)*	1			19
		<i>Gobulus crescentalis</i> (Gilbert, 1892)	0.4	0.2		1
		<i>Lepidogobius lepidus</i> (Girard, 1858)*	0.3		0.4	
		<i>Lythrypnus</i> sp 1	0.3			
		<i>Lythrypnus dalli</i> (Gilbert, 1890)*	1	0.4	5	19
		<i>Lythrypnus zebra</i> (Gilbert, 1890)*	0.4		1	6
		<i>Microgobius</i> sp 1	1			1
		<i>Microgobius</i> sp 2			0.3	3
		<i>Quietula y-cauda</i> (Jenkins & Evermann, 1889)*				0.5
		<i>Rhinogobiops nicholsii</i> (Bean, 1882)*	1	4	15	27
		<i>Typhlogobius californiensis</i> Steindachner, 1879 ^c		1	2	1
	Microdesmidae	Microdesmidae type 1				0.4
		<i>Clarkichthys bilineatus</i> (Clark, 1936)		0.4		1
Ovalentaria (Subseries)	Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i> sp 2				0.3
		<i>Chromis</i> sp 3				8
		<i>Chromis punctipinnis</i> (Cooper, 1863)*		0.4	77	40
		<i>Chromis alta</i> Greenfield & Woods, 1980*				2
		<i>Hypsypops rubicundus</i> (Girard, 1854)*			1	1
		<i>Stegastes</i> sp 4				3
		<i>Stegastes</i> sp 5				0.2
		<i>Stegastes rectifraenum</i> (Gill, 1862)*			1	
Mugiliformes	Mugilidae	<i>Mugil cephalus</i> Linnaeus, 1758*		0.3		5
Blenniiformes	Blenniidae	<i>Hypsoblennius brevipinnis</i> (Günther, 1861)*			1	
		<i>Hypsoblennius gentilis</i> (Girard, 1854)*	2	0.2	5	5
		<i>Hypsoblennius gilberti</i> (Jordan, 1882)*			1	4
		<i>Hypsoblennius jenkinsi</i> (Jordan & Evermann, 1896)*			1	
		<i>Plagiotremus azalea</i> (Jordan & Bollman, 1890)				1
	Clinidae	Clinidae type 1				0.5
	Labrisomidae	Labrisomidae type 1			0.3	
		Labrisomidae type 2				0.3

Table 1. Continued.

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
		<i>Cryptotrema corallinum</i> Gilbert, 1890*	0.2			
		<i>Labrisomus multiporosus</i> Hubbs, 1953*			1	5
		<i>Labrisomus xanti</i> Gill, 1860*			1	0.4
Gobiesociformes	Gobiesocidae	Gobiesocidae type 1				1
		<i>Gobiesox</i> sp 1				0.3
Atheriniformes	Atherinopsidae	<i>Atherinopsis californiensis</i> Girard, 1854*	0.2			
Beloniformes	Exocoetidae	<i>Cheilopogon hubbsi</i> (Parin, 1961)*			3	
		<i>Cheilopogon xenopterus</i> (Gilbert, 1890)			0.3	0.2
		Exocoetidae type 1			2	
		<i>Fodiator rostratus</i> (Günther, 1866)*			0.4	
	Hemiramphidae	Hemiramphidae type 1			0.4	0.2
		<i>Hyporhamphus rosae</i> (Jordan & Gilbert, 1880)			1	
	Scomberesocidae	<i>Cololabis saira</i> (Brevoort, 1856)*	1	5	1	
Carangiformes	Coryphaenidae	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i> Linnaeus, 1758*		0.3	2	3
	Carangidae	<i>Oligoplites</i> sp 1				1
		<i>Oligoplites</i> sp 2			0.3	
		<i>Oligoplites saurus</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)		0.2	2	
		<i>Seriola</i> sp 1	2			
		<i>Seriola lalandi</i> Valenciennes, 1833*	2	18	60	1
		<i>Seriola rivoliana</i> Valenciennes, 1833*				1
		<i>Naucrates ductor</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) ^o				1
		<i>Caranx caballus</i> Günther, 1868*		0.2	1	1
		<i>Chloroscombrus orqueta</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1883*			1	3
		<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i> (Bloch, 1793)*				4
		<i>Trachurus symmetricus</i> (Ayres, 1855)*	23	177	38	1
Istiophoriformes	Sphyraenidae	<i>Sphyraena argentea</i> Girard, 1854*		0.4	12	
		<i>Sphyraena ensis</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1882			1	1
		<i>Sphyraena lucasana</i> Gill, 1863*				0.2
Pleuronectiformes	Paralichthyidae	<i>Ancylosetta dendritica</i> Gilbert, 1890				1
		<i>Citharichthys</i> sp 1		19	1	
		<i>Citharichthys fragilis</i> Gilbert, 1890*	41	144	61	35
		<i>Citharichthys gordae</i> Beebe & Tee-Van, 1938	0.3	0.3	1	1
		<i>Citharichthys platophrys</i> Gilbert, 1891 ^c			0.2	
		<i>Citharichthys sordidus</i> (Girard, 1854) ^o	24	84	83	110
		<i>Citharichthys stigmaeus</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1882*	18	60	60	62
		<i>Citharichthys xanthostigma</i> Gilbert, 1890*	13	16	22	50

Table 1. continuation

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
		<i>Etropus crossotus</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1882*	3	0.1	22	7
		<i>Hippoglossina stomata</i> Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1890*	7	11	12	11
		<i>Paralichthys californicus</i> (Ayres, 1859)*	1	8	3	
		<i>Syacium ovale</i> (Günther, 1864)				5
		<i>Xystreureys liolepis</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1880*			0.2	
	Pleuronectidae	Pleuronectidae type 2		0.3		
		Pleuronectidae type 4	1			
		<i>Hypsopsetta guttulata</i> (Girard, 1856)		1		0.2
		<i>Lyopsetta exilis</i> (Jordan & Gilbert, 1880) ^o		1		
		<i>Microstomus pacificus</i> (Lockington, 1879)*			2	
		<i>Parophrys</i> sp 1		0.3		
		<i>Parophrys vetulus</i> Girard, 1854*		1	0.5	
		<i>Pleuronichthys coenosus</i> Girard, 1854*			0.2	1
		<i>Pleuronichthys verticalis</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1880*	0.4	0.4	1	
	Bothidae	Bothidae type 1				0.3
		<i>Bothus leopardinus</i> (Günther, 1862) ^c	0.3		0.2	3
	Cynoglossidae	<i>Symphurus</i> sp 1			0.3	
		<i>Symphurus atricaudus</i> (Jordan & Gilbert, 1880)*	1	0.3	13	144
		<i>Symphurus williamsi</i> Jordan & Culver, 1895			1	5
Syngnathiformes	Syngnathidae	Syngnathidae type 1	1		0.2	
		<i>Syngnathus californiensis</i> Storer, 1845*		1	12	19
	Centriscidae	Centriscidae type 1	0.2			
		<i>Macroramphosus gracilis</i> (Lowe, 1839)*	14	2	1	11
Scombriformes	Gempylidae	<i>Gempylus serpens</i> Cuvier, 1829 ^o	0.3			1
	Trichiuridae	<i>Lepidopus fitchi</i> Rosenblatt & Wilson, 1987 ^o	5		14	27
		<i>Trichiurus nitens</i> Garman, 1899				54
	Scombridae	<i>Scomber japonicus</i> Houttuyn, 1782*	73	161	1256	9
		<i>Sarda chiliensis</i> (Cuvier, 1832)*	0.5	4	10	
		<i>Auxis</i> spp			2	
		<i>Euthynnus</i> sp 1			0.3	
		<i>Euthynnus lineatus</i> Kishinouye, 1920 ^c				0.2
	Nomeidae	Nomeidae type 1	0.2			
		Nomeidae type 2	0.5			
		<i>Cubiceps baxteri</i> McCulloch, 1923			1	
		<i>Cubiceps pauciradiatus</i> Günther, 1872 ^o			0.5	1
		<i>Psenes pellucidus</i> Lütken, 1880			1	4
	Tetragonuridae	<i>Tetragonurus cuvieri</i> Risso, 1810 ^o	1	3	3	6

Table 1. continued

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
	Stromateidae	Stromateidae type 1			0.3	
		<i>Peprilus</i> sp 1				0.3
		<i>Peprilus simillimus</i> (Ayres, 1860)*	1	23	1	0.2
		<i>Peprilus snyderi</i> Gilbert & Starks, 1904				0.3
Trachiniiformes	Chiasmodatidae	<i>Chiasmodon niger</i> Johnson, 1864 ^o	49	32	38	28
	Uranoscopidae	<i>Kathetostoma averruncus</i> Jordan & Bollman, 1890*	2	2	0.3	
Labriformes	Labridae	Labridae type 4			0.3	
		Labridae type 5				2
		<i>Halichoeres dispilus</i> (Günther, 1864)*	0.2			
		<i>Halichoeres semicinctus</i> (Ayres, 1859)*	1		8	67
		<i>Oxyjulis californica</i> (Günther, 1861)*	1	5	16	2
		<i>Semicossyphus pulcher</i> (Ayres, 1854)*	0.3		7	6
		<i>Xyrichthys mundiceps</i> Gill, 1962*	0.4			
	Scaridae	Scaridae type 1				0.3
Perciformes	Gerreidae	<i>Eucinostomus currani</i> Zahuranec, 1980*				3
		<i>Eucinostomus dowii</i> (Gill, 1863)*			1	0.5
		<i>Eucinostomus gracilis</i> (Gill, 1862)*				2
	Mullidae	<i>Pseudupeneus grandisquamis</i> (Gill, 1863)*				1
	Kyphosidae	<i>Kyphosus azureus</i> (Jenkins & Evermann, 1889)*	1		2	1
		<i>Kyphosus</i> sp 2	0.2			
	Serranidae	<i>Serranidae</i> type 1				1
		<i>Epinephelus</i> sp 2				0.3
		<i>Diplectrum</i> sp 1	1		0.4	
		<i>Paralabrax clathratus</i> (Girard, 1854)*			8	2
		<i>Paralabrax maculatofasciatus</i> (Steindachner, 1868)*			5	2
		<i>Paralabrax nebulifer</i> (Girard, 1854)*			1	
		<i>Serranus</i> sp 1			1	5
		<i>Serranus</i> sp 2				0.5
		<i>Serranus</i> sp 4			0.3	
		<i>Pronotogrammus multifasciatus</i> Gill, 1863*	5	0.5	15	42
		<i>Mycteroperca rosacea</i> (Streets, 1877)				0.5
		<i>Paranthias colonus</i> (Valenciennes, 1846)*				1
	Bramidae	<i>Brama dussumieri</i> Cuvier, 1831		0.3	0.4	3
		<i>Brama japonica</i> Hilgendorf, 1878*	1	2	3	2
		<i>Taractichthys steindachneri</i> (Döderlein, 1883) ^o				0.4
	Caristiidae	<i>Paracaristius nudarcus</i> (Stevenson & Kenaley, 2011)			2	2
	Priacanthidae	<i>Pristigenys serrula</i> (Gilbert, 1891)*			0.3	0.5
	Malacanthidae	<i>Caulolatilus princeps</i> (Jenyns, 1840)*	1	24	4	7

Table 1. Continued

ORDER	FAMILY		WI	SP	SU	FA
	Haemulidae	<i>Haemulon californiensis</i> (Steindachner, 1876)*			2	0.5
	Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i> sp 1			0.3	1
	Cirrhitidae	Cirrhitidae type 2				1
	Polynemidae	<i>Polydactylus approximans</i> (Lay & Bennett, 1839)*				0.5
Scorpaeniformes	Scorpaenidae	<i>Sebastes aurora</i> (Gilbert, 1890) ^o	1	4		
		<i>Sebastes</i> sp 1	96	77	1	1
		<i>Sebastes</i> sp 2	20	144	5	1
		<i>Sebastes</i> spp	12	57	2	0
		<i>Sebastolobus</i> sp 1			0.2	
		<i>Scorpaena</i> sp 1	2			1
		<i>Pontinus</i> sp 1		0.4		
		<i>Pontinus</i> sp 2				1
		<i>Scorpaena guttata</i> Girard, 1854*	13	31	83	14
		<i>Scorpaenodes xyris</i> (Jordan & Gilbert, 1882)*			1	3
	Triglidae	<i>Prionotus stephanophrys</i> Lockington, 1881*	2		93	148
	Stichaeidae	<i>Plectobranthus evides</i> Gilbert, 1890*		1		
	Hexagrammidae	<i>Oxylebius pictus</i> Gill, 1862 ^c	0.3			
		<i>Zaniolepis frenata</i> Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1889*	0.2	0.4		
		<i>Zaniolepis latipinnis</i> Girard, 1858*		0.3		0.2
	Rhamphocottidae	<i>Rhamphocottus richardsonii</i> Günther, 1874		0.2		
	Agonidae	<i>Odontopyxis trispinosa</i> Lockington, 1880*		0.2		
	Cottidae	<i>Cottus asper</i> Richardson, 1836			0.1	
Acanthuriformes	Sciaenidae	Sciaenidae type 1			2	
		Sciaenidae type 2			0.4	
		Sciaenidae type 8			0.3	
		<i>Atractoscion nobilis</i> (Ayres, 1860)*		0.2	1	
		<i>Menticirrhus undulatus</i> (Girard, 1854)*			0.2	
		<i>Roncador stearnsii</i> (Steindachner, 1876)*		0.4	19	
		<i>Umbrina</i> sp 1			0.3	
		<i>Umbrina roncador</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1882*	0.4		2	
Spariformes	Sparidae	<i>Calamus brachysomus</i> (Lockington, 1880)*			0.4	1
Lophiiformes	Lophiidae	Lophidae type 1			0.3	
		<i>Lophiodes spilurus</i> (Garman, 1899)*				2
	Antennariidae	<i>Antennarius avalonis</i> Jordan & Starks, 1907*				1
		<i>Antennarius</i> sp 2				0.4

Table 1. Continued

ORDER	FAMILY	TAXA	WI	SP	SU	FA
	Melanocetidae	<i>Melanocetus johnsonii</i> Günther, 1864*			0.5	1
	Oneirodidae	<i>Oneirodes</i> sp 1			1	5
	Ceratiidae	<i>Cryptopsaras couesii</i> Gill, 1883				0.2
	Gigantactinidae	<i>Gigantactis</i> sp 1			0.3	3
	Linophrynidae	<i>Borophryne apogon</i> Regan, 1925*				0.2
Tetraodontiformes	Tetraodontidae	<i>Sphoeroides annulatus</i> (Jenyns, 1842)*			1	

Table 2. Percentage of larval abundance per season for each fish family as well as by adult habitat and zoogeographic affinity. Only families that contributed with 95% of total fish larval abundance are listed in decreasing order of total larvae abundance.

FAMILY	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	Larval Abundance (%)	Taxa	Larval Abundance (%)	Taxa	Larval Abundance (%)	Taxa	Larval Abundance (%)	Taxa
Phosichthyidae	26.40	2	18.09	2	53.64	2	29.75	2
Myctophidae	31.41	28	30.57	30	26.80	28	20.84	26
Synodontidae	3.43	1	0.02	1	0.21	2	31.79	2
Engraulidae	6.60	1	16.59	1	1.44	2	0.11	1
Bathylagidae	6.17	3	8.64	3	2.98	3	1.58	2
Clupeidae	10.17	2	7.58	2	1.38	3	0.73	3
Scombridae	1.35	2	2.02	2	6.60	3	0.08	2
Paralichthyidae	1.99	8	4.21	9	1.39	11	2.32	9
Gonostomatidae	2.41	2	1.46	3	1.20	4	2.23	5
Scorpaenidae	2.65	14	3.85	19	0.48	10	0.18	8
Carangidae	0.49	3	2.40	4	0.53	6	0.11	8
Ophidiidae	0.17	2	0.05	3	0.29	7	2.22	8
Stomiidae	2.52	2	0.39	1	0.11	1	0.26	2
Triglidae	0.04	1			0.48	1	1.21	1
HABITAT								
Bathypelagic	70.84	59	60.41	59	85.22	71	55.75	73
Demersal-Reef associated	9.82	80	9.54	73	4.61	105	42.70	135
Pelagic Neritic	18.14	8	26.19	6	9.45	13	0.93	8
Pelagic Oceanic	1.20	12	3.86	13	0.72	22	0.62	13
ZOOGEOGRAPHIC AFFINITY								
Southern distr.	56.38	82	68.65	92	89.87	112	85.65	130
Wide distr.	26.14	26	17.72	20	6.80	35	9.26	34
Northern distr.	17.49	51	13.62	39	3.33	64	5.09	65
Total larval abundance per season (larvae/10 m ²)		86,409		130,374		269,099		170,556
Total taxa per season		154		147		207		219
Dominant taxa per season		20		19		11		16

Table 3. Ranked abundance of larval fish *taxa* identified from BSV (1997-2016) and CalCOFI (1951-1984) survey cruises. Information depicts the 20 best-ranked *taxa* by their larval abundance in each program.

TAXA	Adult Habitat	Adult Zoogeographic Affinity	BSV Rank	CalCOFI Rank
<i>Vinciguerria lucetia</i>	Bathypelagic	Tropical-Subtropical	1	3
<i>Triphoturus mexicanus</i>	Bathypelagic	Subtropical	2	6
<i>Synodus lucioceps</i>	Reef associated	Temperate-Subtropical	3	28*
<i>Diogenichthys laternatus</i>	Bathypelagic	Subtropical	4	11
<i>Engraulis mordax</i>	Pelagic neritic	Subtropical	5	1
<i>Sardinops sagax</i>	Pelagic neritic	Subtropical	6	8
<i>Scomber japonicus</i>	Pelagic neritic	Subtropical	7	24
<i>Bathylagoides wesethi</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Temperate	8	12
<i>Leuroglossus stilbius</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Temperate	9	5
<i>Cyclothone signata</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Subtropical	10	15*
<i>Sebastes</i> spp	Reef associated	Subarctic-Subtropical	11	4
<i>Ceratoscopelus townsendi</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Temperate	12	18
<i>Citharichthys</i> spp	Demersal	Temperate-Subtropical	13	10
<i>Citharichthys sordidus</i>	Demersal	Temperate	14	80
<i>Citharichthys fragilis</i>	Demersal	Subtropical	15	25
<i>Trachurus symmetricus</i>	Pelagic oceanic	Subarctic-Subtropical	16	9
<i>Protomyctophum crockeri</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Temperate	17	16
<i>Nannobranchium ritteri</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Temperate	18	20
<i>Stomias atriventer</i>	Bathypelagic	Temperate	19	38
<i>Prionotus stephanophrys</i>	Demersal	Subtropical	20	35*
<i>Merluccius productus</i>	Pelagic oceanic	Subarctic-Temperate	23	2
<i>Nannobranchium</i> spp	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Subtropical	33	19
Sciaenidae	Demersal	Temperate-Subtropical	62	14
<i>Lipolagus ochotensis</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Temperate	63	13
<i>Tarletonbeania crenularis</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Temperate	95	17
<i>Stenobranchius leucopsarus</i>	Bathypelagic	Subarctic-Temperate	106	7

* Closest reference only at the genus level

these expatriation cases do not imply the presence of adults in the area and represent lost populations because larvae lack of adequate conditions for their survival. Because of this, generally they are not included as extensions of species distribution in taxonomic lists.

Almost a third of the fish larvae *taxa* registered in this work could not be identified to the species level, thus highlighting the urgency of more taxonomic studies for a more accurate diagnosis of the early stages of fishes that inhabit the area. Since most of the families that lack larvae diagnostics are presumably from coastal origin, coastal sampling in the study area would improve the chance of collecting a higher and more representative number of those larvae, to complete the larval development series that connect to the juvenile and adult stages of fi-

shes inhabiting the area. Complementary taxonomic methods using molecular techniques would improve fish larvae species recognition and clarify doubtful morphologic identification.

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