

ICES/PICES 6ZPS 2016/S3

PARALARVAE AS PART OF MACROZOOPLANKTON AND THEIR
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VARIABILITY OF OCEANOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS

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This contribution shows evidence of the importance of incorporating paralarvae in macrozooplankton studies. Besides in the north Humboldt Current System (HCS) giant squid "*Dosidiscus gigas*" is the second most important resource after anchovy "*Engraulis ringens*", however has low abundance and frequency of their paralarvae levels.

Were collected 1187 zooplankton samples with Hensen net from 8 research cruises carried out during 2013 and 2014, which show a high species diversity of cephalopods represented by 14 families, 8 genera and 4 species, being the most dominant *Argonauta* spp., *Abraliopsis* sp., Octopodidae, Gonatidae and Pyroteuthidae. The difference between the numbers of species with families reported is a clearly problem reflected in the taxonomic determination due to limited information to individuals of smaller sizes (mantle length) and fixing problems associated with chromatophores patterns.

This is where resides the importance of studying paralarvae, the role of these species within the SCNH discussed in 2013-2014, which helps us understand the fluctuations in their abundances, frequencies and inter and intra annual distribution associated with variability in oceanographic conditions in response to climate change.

KEYWORDS: paralarvae, macrozooplankton, SCNH

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