

Review of trophic interactions of the jumbo flying squid, *Dosidicus gigas*, in the southeast Pacific Ocean

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The Jumbo flying squid *Dosidicus gigas* (*D. gigas*), an oceanic-neritic species, is endemic to the eastern Pacific Ocean (Koronkiewicz, 1988). The squid is an important target species in Japan and other countries of the world, and a maximum annual global catch of 800,000 and over 750,000 tons/year was harvested in 2008 and 2010, respectively (F.A.O., 2010). Although the historical distribution range of this species comprised the Eastern Pacific waters from 30°N to 25°S (Nigmatullin *et al.*, 2001), the range has recently expanded poleward in both the northern and southern hemispheres. In addition, *D. gigas* has also been found in the submarine canyon system associated with Monterey Bay (37°N) since the 1997-1998 El Niño (Zeidberg and Robison, 2007), and individuals have been reported from as far north as southeastern Alaska (59°N) (Field *et al.* 2007, Staaf, 2010).

Prey preference has been reported to change from macroplanktonic invertebrates and fish fry in *D. gigas* juveniles, to fish and squid in *D. gigas* adults (Nigmatullin, 2001). The size of prey has also been reported to increase as the squid grows (Shchetinnikov, 1989). A recent study reported that *D. gigas* preys upon tuna (Olson *et al.* 2006) and Chilean hake *Merluccius gayi* (Alarcón-Muñoz *et al.*, 2008) caught in purse-seine sets. Analyses of mature *D. gigas* stomach contents showed that their diet consists predominantly of fishes, suggesting that this species is an opportunistic predator (Ulloa *et al.*, 2006). Detrended correspondence analysis ordination showed that the main prey items in the diet of *D. gigas* are associated with the target species of the respective fishery (Ibáñez, 2008). Cannibalism is common, but only among a relatively small number of juvenile squid (3-4%) (Ehrhardt, 1991). Laboratory and field observations have shown that adult squid

(mantle length: 200 to 350 mm), consume 5 to 9% of their body weight a day (Nigmatullin *et al.*, 2001).

On the other hand, *D. gigas* is also an important prey species, with juveniles preyed upon by pelagic fish (Rosas-Aloya *et al.*, 2002), and adults, by larger pelagic fishes (Abitia-Cardenas *et al.*, 1999, Rosas-Aloya *et al.*, 2002) and sperm whales, *Physeter macrocephalus* (Ruiz-Cooley *et al.*, 2004).

Cephalopods play an important role in oceanic food webs; their populations are subject to marked fluctuations and their impact on prey populations is equally variable (Rodhouse and Nigmatullin 1996, Piatkowski *et al.* 2001). *D. gigas* is a particularly important prey and predator species in the southeastern Pacific Ocean (Markaida and Sosa-Nishizaki, 2003). Field *et al.* (2007) reported that their ability to prey on larger items is indicative of their potential impact on ecosystems. Nonetheless, despite their importance in pelagic ecosystems, their feeding behavior and the ontogenic changes in prey consumption are not well understood. Future studies will therefore examine ontogenic changes in foraging behavior using stable isotope analysis.

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