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## **Important aspects of foraging behavior and feeding morphology in resource partitioning studies of fishes**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The range of food items that a fish can potentially eat is largely determined by its foraging behavior and feeding morphology. Resource partitioning among most coexisting species of demersal fishes in southern California appears to be the result of differences in foraging behavior and feeding morphology (Allen, 1974). A description of the foraging behavior of many species, however, does not occur in the literature, perhaps because this behavior may seem obvious or unimportant. The objective of this paper is to emphasize the importance of foraging behavior and feeding morphology in resource partitioning studies and to describe the types of behavioral and morphological information that might apply to these studies. The information I have included in this paper appears to account for the coexistence of species in southern California fish communities and is further elaborated in "A resource partitioning model of southern California demersal fish communities."

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