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The infaunal trophic index and its application to studying fish feeding habits

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ABSTRACT

Detailed knowledge of the types of food acceptable to fish, and the manner in which such information is obtained, is generally required prior to the efficient management of fish stocks. However ,the identification of all prey species found in fish stomachs and the comparison with the abundance of these prey items in the environment is very expensive and time consuming. Because of these constraints, research efforts are limited in the number of fish species that can be studied at a time. Moreover, effective management of any fish stock must also incorporate studies on the feeding interactions of all the species likely to influence the target stock of fish. Techniques are therefore required that rapidly determine the degree and manner by which each species selects its prey without exponentially increasing the cost of the investigation.