

Table 3. Scientific names with authorities and common names for fish species identified as prey items in the stomachs of Bottlenose Dolphins examined in this study.

Prey items	Common name	Prey items	Common name
Bony fishes		<i>Porichthys plectrodon</i> Jordan & Gilbert	Atlantic Midshipman
Sciaenidae		Synodontidae	
<i>Stellifer lanceolatus</i> Holbrook	Star Drum	<i>Synodus foetens</i> L.	Inshore Lizardfish
<i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i> Lacepède	Spot	Stromateidae	
<i>Micropogonius undulatus</i> L.	Atlantic Croaker	<i>Peprius triacanthus</i> Peck	Atlantic Butterfish
<i>Bairdiella chrysoura</i> Lacepède	Silver Perch	Anguillidae	
<i>Cynoscion nothus</i> Holbrook	Silver Seatrout	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i> Lesueur	American Eel
<i>Larimus fasciatus</i> Holbrook	Banded Drum	Ophichthidae	
<i>Cynoscion regalis</i> Bloch & Schneider	Weakfish	<i>Myrophis punctatus</i> Lütken	Speckled Worm Eel
<i>Menticirrhus americanus</i> L.	Southern Kingfish	<i>Ophichthus gomesi</i> Castelnau	Shrimp Eel
<i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i> Cuvier	Spotted Seatrout	Elopidae	
<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i> L.	Red Drum	<i>Elops saurus</i> L.	Ladyfish
<i>Pogonias cromis</i> L.	Black Drum	Serranidae	
Clupeidae		<i>Centropristis striata</i> L.	Black Sea Bass
<i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i> Latrobe	Atlantic Menhaden	<i>Centropristis philadelphica</i> L.	Rock Sea Bass
Engraulidae		Carangidae	
<i>Anchoa mitchilli</i> Valenciennes	Bay Anchovy	<i>Selene setapinnis</i> Mitchell	Moonfish
<i>Anchoa hepsetus</i> L.	Striped Anchovy	Bleniidae	
Mugilidae		<i>Hypsoblennius bentzi</i> Lesueur	Feather Blenny
<i>Mugil cephalus</i> L.	Striped Mullet	Cartilaginous fish	
Sparidae		Triakidae	
<i>Lagodon rhomboides</i> L.	Pinfish	<i>Mustelus canis</i> Mitchell	Smooth Dogfish
Haemulidae		Cephalopods	
<i>Orthopristis chrysoptera</i> L.	Pigfish	Loligidae	
Trichiuridae		<i>Lolliguncula brevis</i> Blainville	Brief Squid
<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i> L.	Cutlassfish	Crustaceans	
Bothidae		Penaeidae	
<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i> L.	Summer Flounder	<i>Litopenaeus setiferus</i> L.	Northern White Shrimp
<i>Paralichthys lethostigma</i> Jordan & Gilbert	Southern Flounder	<i>Penaeus aztecus</i> Ives	Northern Brown Shrimp
Batrachoididae		Portunidae	
<i>Opsanus tau</i> L.	Oyster Toadfish	<i>Portunus sayi</i> Gibbs	Sargassum Crab

Table 2. Percent composition by number (N) and percent frequency of occurrence (F) for prey items identified in the stomach contents of all Bottlenose Dolphins ( $n = 82$ ), immature and mature male and female dolphins, and dolphins stranding in oceanic and estuarine waters of South Carolina between 2000 and 2006. The less than sign (<) denotes prey items less than 1% in numerical abundance. O = oceanic, E = estuarine. Common names and authorities for all species listed given in Table 3.

Prey items	All		Immature				Mature				O		E	
	dolphins		Females		Males		Females		Males		(n = 48)		(n = 34)	
	(n = 82)	(n = 16)	(n = 21)	(n = 17)	(n = 23)	(n = 48)	(n = 34)	N	F	N	F	N	F	
<b>Bony fishes</b>														
<b>Sciaenidae</b>														
<i>Stellifer lanceolatus</i>	40	44	56	38	19	48	36	35	30	43	22	32	54	29
<i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i>	10	37	6	50	3	24	12	29	23	30	19	26	2	26
<i>Micropogonius undulatus</i>	3	35	1	31	3	33	1	24	10	48	7	26	1	24
<i>Bairdiella chrysoura</i>	4	27	<	38	6	24	1	24	11	22	5	16	3	26
<i>Cynoscion nothus</i>	1	22	1	44	1	10	1	18	1	17	1	12	1	24
<i>Larimus fasciatus</i>	1	17	1	31	1	14	2	12	<	9	1	13	<	9
<i>Cynoscion regalis</i>	1	16	<	13	<	5	5	24	1	17	2	13	<	9
<i>Menticirrhus americanus</i>	1	10	1	13	<	5	<	12	1	13	1	7	<	6
<i>Cynoscion</i> spp.	<	10	<	13	<	10			1	13	<	6	<	9
<i>Menticirrhus</i> spp.	<	6							<	9	<	4	<	6
<i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i>	<	6	<	6	<	5	<	6	<	9	<	1	<	9
<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>	<	2					<	6	<	4	<	2	<	3
<i>Pogonias cromis</i>	<	1							<	4	<	1		
Sciaenid sp.	<	1					3	6			<	1		
<b>Clupeidae</b>														
<i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i>	2	26	2	44	1	33	<	6	<	13	4	16	1	24
<b>Engraulidae</b>														
<i>Anchoa mitchilli</i>	11	21	9	31	33	24	1	18	1	13	11	15	11	15
<i>Anchoa hepsetus</i>	4	16	<	31	13	24	<	12	3	4	4	11	3	12
<b>Ophidiidae</b>														
Cusk eel spp.	1	12	1	13	<	14			3	17	0	7	1	12
<b>Mugilidae</b>														
<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	<	12	<	25	<	5	<	6	<	13	0	6	<	15
<b>Triglidae</b>														
<i>Prionotus</i> sp.	1	9	1	13	<	10			1	13	0	5	1	9
<b>Sparidae</b>														
<i>Lagodon rhomboides</i>	<	7	<	13			1	6	2	13	1	5	<	6
<b>Haemulidae</b>														
<i>Orthopristis chrysoptera</i>	<	6	<	13	<	5			<	9	<	4	<	6
<b>Gadidae</b>														
<i>Urophycis</i> sp.	<	6			<	5	<	12	<	9	<	2	<	9
<b>Trichiuridae</b>														
<i>Trichiurus lepiturus</i>	<	6	<	25					<	4	<	5	<	3
<b>Bothidae</b>														
<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>	<	7	<	13	<	5			<	9	<	4	<	9
<i>Paralichthys lethostigma</i>	<	2							<	4	<	2		
<i>Paralichthys</i> sp.	<	1									<	1		
<b>Batrachoididae</b>														
<i>Opsanus tau</i>	2	12	2	19	4	10	<	6	<	17	<	4	3	21
<i>Porichthys plectrodon</i>	<	4	<	6	<	5			<	4	<	4		

There were 131 undigested fish representing ten species recovered from the stomachs of thirteen dolphins. The fish recovered included *Brevoortia tyrannus* (Atlantic Menhaden), *Peprilus triacanthus* (Butterfish), *Menticirrhus* spp., *Paralichthys dentatus* (Summer Flounder), Spot, *Porichthys plectrodon* (Atlantic Midshipman), Atlantic Croaker, *Opsanus tau* (Oyster Toadfish), *Menticirrhus americanus* (Southern Kingfish), and *Mugil cephalus* (Striped Mullet). The largest proportion of whole fish remains recovered ranged from 80–119 mm TL. The largest undigested teleost fish was an Oyster Toadfish at 291 mm TL, followed

Table 2, continued.

Prey items	All		Immature				Mature				O		E	
	dolphins		Females		Males		Females		Males		(n = 48)		(n = 34)	
	(n = 82)	(n = 16)	(n = 21)	(n = 17)	(n = 23)	(n = 48)		(n = 34)						
	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F
Synodontidae														
<i>Synodus foetens</i>	<	5	<	6			1	6	1	4	1	4	<	3
Anguillidae														
<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	<	5			2	10	<	6	<	4	<	4	<	3
Ophichthidae														
<i>Myrophis punctatus</i>	<	1	<	6							<	1		
<i>Ophichthus gomesi</i>	<	1			<	5								
Elopidae														
<i>Elops saurus</i>	<	2					<	6	<	4	<	2		
Serranidae														
<i>Centropristis striata</i>	<	1					<	6						
<i>Centropristis philadelphica</i>	<	1	<	6										
Stromateidae														
<i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>	<	1									<	1		
Arridae														
Catfish sp.	<	1							<	4	<	1		
Carangidae														
<i>Selene setapinnis</i>	<	1	<	6										
Blenniidae														
<i>Hypsoblennius hentzi</i>	<	1	<	6										
Unidentified fish														
Unidentified fish spp.	3	45	1	50	3	43	<	24	7	52	4	29	2	38
Cartilaginous fish														
Triakidae														
<i>Mustelus canis</i>	<	1									<	1		
Cephalopods														
Lolliginidae														
<i>Lolliguncula brevis</i>	13	56	15	75	6	43	32	59	5	52	9	33	16	56
Unidentified squid sp.	<	1	<	6									<	3
Crustaceans														
Penaeidae														
<i>Litopenaeus setiferus</i>	1	16	1	25	2	14	<	12	<	9	2	12	1	9
<i>Penaeus aztecus</i>	<	2	<	13									<	6
Unidentified shrimp sp.	<	7			<	10	<	18	<	4	<	4	<	9
Portunidae														
<i>Portunus sayi</i>	<	1									<	1		