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## Food habits of swordfish, *Xiphias gladius*, in eastern Mediterranean

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The stomach content of 218 specimens of the swordfish, *Xiphias gladius*, ranging in length from 0.68 to 2.27 m (LJFL) was examined. The samples were caught in the Aegean and Levantine Sea by the long line Greek commercial fishing boats during the years 1999 and 2001. The vacuity index was low (13.3%). The quantitative and qualitative examination of the stomachs showed that cephalopods represent the dominant prey of this species (F=88,9%, Cn=70.2%, Cw=43.4%) while the fishes are second in importance (F=73%, Cn=24.5%, Cw=54.8%). Slight differences in frequency occurrence of organisms in the diet were noted between geographical areas and seasons. Differences were observed between the diet of juvenile and adult specimens.