

(ms. received 10.9.1980)

NEW LOCALITY RECORDS AND PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON DEMERSAL
FAUNAL ASSEMBLAGES IN TASMANIAN WATERS

by P.R. Last and J.G.K. Harris
Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority, Taroona, Tasmania. 7006

(with two tables and three appendices)

ABSTRACT

LAST, P.R. and HARRIS, J.G.K., 1981 (30 ix): New locality records and preliminary

information on demersal fish faunal assemblages in Tasmanian waters. *Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tasm.*, 115, 189-209. <https://doi.org/10.26749/rstpp.115.189> ISSN 0080-4703. Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority, Taroona, Tasmania, Australia.

A survey of demersal fish resources off the Tasmanian coast in early 1979 provided guideline information on abundance and diversity of resources and the bathymetric distribution of species.

An annotated list of new Australian records includes *Coelorinchus matamua* McCann and McKnight, *Pseudoxenomystax hirsutus* (Castle), *Physiculus marginatus* (Günther), *Pentaceros richardsoni* (Smith) and *Seriotelella caerulea* (Guichenot). New Tasmanian records include *Centroscymnus crepidator* (Bocage and Capello), *Centrophorus uyato* (Rafinesque), *Etmopterus lucifer* (Jordan and Snyder), *Dalatias licha* (Bonnaterre), *Raja gudgeri* Whitley, *Harriotta raleighana* Goode and Bean, *Neoscopelus macrolepidotus* Johnson, *Euelichthys polynemus* McCulloch, *Tripteroptychus gilchristi* Boulenger, *Neocyttus rhomboidalis* Gilchrist, *Cyttosoma boops* Gilchrist, *Lepidotrigla mullhalli* (Macleay), *Platycephalus conatus* Waite and McCulloch, *Neophrynichthys macleayi* McCulloch, *Epigonus denticulatus* Dieuzeide and *Parika scaber* (Forster).

Two skates (*Raja* spp.) are new to science, and four other species (*Raja* spp., *Hydrolagus* sp. and *Pleuroscopus* sp.) have not been positively identified and may be undescribed.

Bathymetric distributions of species sampled and a subjective evaluation of community structures of Tasmanian demersal fishes are provided.

INTRODUCTION

Accurate identification and determination of species compositions are important aspects of both academic and applied studies of animal communities. The population dynamics and natural history of commercial fish species are realised as major considerations in fishery studies but the usefulness of non-commercials in defining faunal assemblages and trophic associations is often undervalued. Such information can often be obtained incidentally from more specific studies at low additional cost. The importance of knowledge relating to interspecific relationships within communities and its application to specific fisheries studies has been discussed by Cushing (1975). The southern extremity of the Australian continental shelf occurs in Tasmanian waters, rendering the area interesting zoogeographically and providing a boundary for many commercial fish species.

Collections of demersal fish from Tasmanian waters date back to voyages of the "Erebus" and "Terror" (1844). The F.I.S. "Endeavour" (1909-1914) pioneered trawl fisheries research in southern Australia and while an attempt was made to identify the catch components accurately, most subsequent surveys conducted off Tasmania (Wolfe 1970; Blackburn and Fairbridge 1946; Anon. 1977, 1979a) did not provide detailed compositional data or were basically exploratory surveys of a single species (Grant 1974). On some cruises, "Academic Berg" (Parin and Bekker 1972), "Courageous" (Anon. 1975-78), "Kaiyo Maru" (Anon 1976) "Umitaka Maru" (Scott 1969, 70, 71), more extensive collecting was

Demersal Fish Faunal Assemblages in Tasmanian Waters

undertaken and overall species compositions were provided. Cowper and Downie (1957) provided the only summarised information on depth distribution of species but some species appear to have been confused with closely allied forms.

Prior to 1977 the most comprehensive recent trawling survey off the Tasmanian coast was undertaken by "Zeehaan" (Webb and Wolfe, 1977). In 1977 "Zeehaan" and a Lakes Entrance trawler, "Craigmin", were chartered to undertake exploratory trawling operations around southeastern Australia (Anon. 1977). A further grant allowed for the implementation of phase two of the survey and both vessels were re-chartered for a further exercise in 1978 (Anon. 1979a).

A third phase was completed in 1979. The 23 m stern trawler, "Zeehaan", was chartered for a three month survey off the Tasmanian west coast, and two shots were also completed on the slope off St. Helens. The basic aims were to map and explore uncharted grounds and secondly to obtain detailed information on the composition and bathymetric distribution of species on the continental shelf and slope. The latter objective is discussed in this paper and the former will be covered in detail in a separate report.

METHODS

A total of 57 trawls were made between January 5 and March 23, 1979. Some of the trawls were aborted because of hookups and for a few, incomplete species listings were obtained. Data from 40 complete samples are used in this paper. Stations and their co-ordinates and depth ranges are listed in Appendix 1.

Five trawl nets were used in the survey. These nets and their headline lengths (H.L.) are: Cosalt Three Bridle (36.6 m H.L.), Bridport Gundry 480 (24.4 m H.L.), Cosalt Aquarius (47 m H.L.), Cosalt U.R.I. (36.6 m H.L.) and Cosalt Box Trawl (24.4 m H.L.).

Species compositions for each trawl were obtained and the results plotted in the appropriate subjectively determined depth range; 0-15 (0-27 m), 15-50 (27-91 m), 50-150 (91-274 m), 150-250 (274-457 m), 250-350 (457-640 m) or greater than 350 (640 m) fathoms (Appendix 2). Mean depths were used to categorise trawls where the net operating depths overlapped two depth ranges.

Catch weight estimates for each species were obtained for each trawl and the relative abundances by weight for the ten major species in each depth range given (Appendix 3).

An annotated list of new records and a list of localities is presented. Explanatory notes are given where widely used scientific names for Australian species have been replaced by senior synonyms. Specimens are currently held at the T.F.D.A. Taroona Laboratory but eventually will be distributed between the Australian, Queen Victoria and Tasmanian Museums. New records have been lodged at the Tasmanian Museum; registration numbers (Tas. Mus. No.) are provided.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Taxonomic Notes

SQUALIDAE

Deania calcea (Lowe, 1839)

S22, 24, 28, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40.

This species is listed from Tasmania (Cowper and Downie 1957; Munro 1956) as a junior synonym *D. kaikourae* (Whitley) (Garrick, 1960a)

Centrophorus uyato (Rafinesque, 1810)

S24, 29. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1610).

Superficially resembles the other *Centrophorus* species and was only recently recorded from Australia (Gorman and Graham 1976). The specimens above represent the first record, of the species for Tasmania.

Centroscymnus crepidator (Bocage and Capello, 1864).

S37, 40. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1611)

Recorded from Australia by Gorman and Graham (1978); two specimens above are the first for Tasmania.

Etmopterus lucifer (Jordan and Snyder, 1902).

S25, 27, 29, 32, 36, 39, 40. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1612).

New record for Tasmanian waters.

Squalus blainvillei Risso, 1826).

S17, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 36. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1613).

Garrick (1960b), although unable to procure specimens from Australian waters, listed *S. tasmaniensis* Rivero from Tasmania as a junior synonym of this species. Material referred to by Gorman and Graham (1976) and herein confirms the occurrence of this species in Australian waters.

Squalus acanthias (Linnaeus, 1758).

S1.

A cosmopolitan species, commonly found in Tasmanian waters but known by the junior synonym *S. kirki* Phillipps.

DALATIIDAE

Dalatias licha (Bonnaterre, 1788).

S31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 40. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1614).

First record for Tasmania; assumed to be conspecific with *D. phillippsi* (Whitley) which has been recorded from southern Australia (Munro 1956).

RAJIDAE

Raja sp. 1

S7. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1615).

The taxonomy of Australian rajids is confused owing to extreme intraspecific, ontogenetic and sexual variation for fishes that are very similar interspecifically. This species is similar to *R. lemprieri*; although herein discriminated it may eventually be found conspecific with that species.

Raja sp 2

S19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 31, 35, 36, 37, 39. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1616).

Appears to be a valid undescribed species.

Raja sp. 3

S19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1617).

Appears to be a valid undescribed species.

Raja gudgeri Whitley, 1940.

S29, 36, 37, 39. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1618)

Holotype collected from Great Australian Bight. New Tasmanian record.

Raja sp. 4

S19, 35, 37. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1619)

Similar to and possibly juvenile form of *R. gudgeri*.

CHIMAERIDAE

Hydrolagus sp. 1

S19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1620).

Allied to *H. lemures* Whitley but differs in some features; may prove to be conspecific with that species.

RHINCHIMAERIDAE

Harriotta raleighana Goode and Bean, 1894

S33, 34, 37, 39. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1621).

New record for Tasmanian waters.

CONGRIDAE

Pseudoxenomystax hirsutus Castle, 1960

S35, 38. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1622).

Previously known only from New Zealand, the above specimens are the first recorded from Australian waters.

ARGENTINIDAE

Argentina australiae Cohen, 1958

S11, 12.

This species was first described as a subspecies of *A. elongata* Hutton and is now recognised as a valid species (Cohen 1969). Previous Tasmanian records of *A. elongata* are most likely attributable to *A. australiae*.

NEOSCOPELIDAE

Neoscopelus macrolepidotus Johnson, 1863

S38. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1623).

New record for Tasmanian waters.

MORIDAE

Physiculus marginatus (Gunther, 1878)

S23, 24, 32, 36, 37. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1624).

Previously known only from Patagonian waters (Norman 1937); specimens above represent first Australian records for the species.

Euclichthys polynemus McCulloch, 1926

S20, 22, 24, 26, 35. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1625).

A new record for Tasmanian waters. This species is not really a morid, but its true taxonomic position has not been ascertained (Svetovidov 1969).

Tripterophycis gilchristi Boulenger, 1904

S26, 32, 35, 37. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1626).

A new record for Tasmanian waters.

MACROURIDAE

Coelorrhinus matamua McCann and McKnight, 1980

S21, 27, 30, 36, 38, 39, 40. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1627).

This species was recently described from New Zealand (McCann and McKnight 1980) and is hereby first recorded for Australia.

Ventrifossa nigromaculatus (McCulloch, 1907)

S22, 26, 28, 35, 37, 40.

Some specimens were collected by "Courageous" (1976) in Storm Bay. This record is now substantiated.

TRACHICHTHYIDAE

Hoplostethus intermedius (Hector, 1875)

S31, 33, 36.

Also collected by "Courageous" (1976) from Tasmanian waters but not recorded as new.

BERYCIDAE

Beryx splendens Lowe, 1833

S21, 23, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.

Collected in Storm Bay by "Courageous". Appears to be our most common deep water berycid.

ZEIDAE

Cyttus traversi (Hutton, 1872)

S20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40.

The only Tasmanian record of this common commercial species is in catch data from a previous "Zeehaan" cruise (Anon. 1979a).

OREOSOMATIDAE

Neocyttus rhomboidalis Gilchrist, 1906

S23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1628).

The species has been recorded from southeastern Australia but not specifically from the Tasmanian shelf where it is extremely abundant.

Cyttosoma boops Gilchrist, 1904

S37, 39, 40. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1629).

New record for Tasmanian waters.

MACRORHAMPHOSIDAE

Centriscoops obliquus Waite, 1911

S20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39.

Recognised by some authors (McCulloch 1929; Munro 1958) as a junior synonym of *C. humerosus* (Richardson). However, the true identity of Richardson's species remains unknown.

Macrorhamphosus scolopax (Linnaeus, 1758)

S11.

The specific status of *M. scolopax* and *M. elevatus* Waite is subject to differing schools of thought and requires further taxonomic attention (Scott 1961). The authors are in agreement with Mohr (1937) so only a single cosmopolitan species is listed.

TRIGLIDAE

Lepidotrigla mulhalli (Macleay, 1884)

S2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1630).

New record for Tasmania. This species and *L. modesta* Waite appear in the past to have been confused with *Paratrigla vanessa* (Richardson).

PLATYCEPHALIDAE

Platycephalus conatus Waite and McCulloch, 1915

S8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1631).

This species has been previously recorded as *P. speculator* Klunzinger. *P. speculator* most closely resembles *P. richardsoni* Castelnau, but, unlike both other species, lacks a swim bladder.

PSYCHROLUTIDAE

Neophrynichthys marcidus McCulloch, 1926

S36, 37, 39. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1632).

Exact locality of the type unknown (Nelson 1977) but samples collected during recent trawling by the "Courageous" have extended its distribution around southern Australia. The above specimens constitute first records for Tasmania.

APOGONIDAE

Epigonus denticulatus Dieuzeide, 1950

S23, 24, 26, 28, 31, 35, 36, 37. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1633).

A cosmopolitan species (Mayer 1974) not previously recorded from Tasmanian waters.

PENTACEROTIDAE

Pentaceros richardsoni (Smith, 1849)

S32. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1634).

A specimen collected from 550 m (300 ftms) represents the first Australian record. The species is apparently rare in New Zealand and South Africa but is caught in commercial quantities in the North Pacific (James 1978) with exceptional catches reported from Hawaiian waters (Anon. 1979b).

Pleuroscopus sp.

S24, 28, 29, 35. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1636).

A South African species *P. pseudodorsalis* Barnard was recently collected (Anon 1979c) in the Western Great Australian Bight. These are the only records of the genus from Australian waters. Tasmanian specimens differ morphometrically and meristically from the holotype but more specimens need to be examined before their relationship can be determined.

CENTROLOPHIDAE

Seriolaella Caerulea Guichenot, 1848

S24, 28, 29, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1637).

First Australian record of adults. Juveniles may have been recorded as a separate species. Known from Patagonia (Norman 1937), and New Zealand (Paul 1978).

MONACANTHIDAE

Parika scaber (Forster, 1801)

S2, 5, 6. (Tas. Mus. No. D 1638).

Originally figured by Scott (1962) incorrectly as *Navodon australis* (Donovan). Although *P. scaber* has been recorded previously as *Navodon setosus* from deep water in Bass Strait (Scott 1960; Waite and McCulloch 1915; Whitley 1931), it was omitted from the Tasmanian records (Hutchins 1977; Last 1975) because of confusion with *Meuschenia australis*.

FAUNAL ASSEMBLAGES

Methods of examining species groupings in some marine studies have been outlined by Sheard (1965). Statistical analyses can only be used with data containing adequate numbers of replicates, hence many (Fish 1925; Sheard 1949; Baker 1954 and Glover 1957) have not attempted to give objective expression to their observations.

Fager and Longhurst (1968) used recurrent group analysis (Fager 1957, 1963) to examine demersal fish assemblages in the tropical eastern Atlantic. They found that where practicable the method can be a useful tool in resource evaluation. However, they highlighted the importance of good subjective techniques when more refined methods cannot be applied to the data. Owing to the low number of sampling replicates, the data obtained in this survey were not analysed statistically.

Subjective analysis indicates the presence of two major distributional zones exhibiting only minor faunal overlap; these are defined by the continental shelf (shallower than 275 m - 150 fathoms) and slope (deeper than 275 m). Interpretation of structuring from a direct comparison of species numbers in the similarity matrix (Table 1) was occluded by the presence of twelve eurybathic species (*Cephaloscyllium laticeps*, *Galeus boaromani*, *Galeorhinus australis*, *Squalus megalops*, *Squalus blainvillei*, *Chlorophthalmus nigripinnis*, *Genypterus blacodes*, *Macruronus novaezelandiae*, *Lepidorhynchus denticulatus*, *Helicolenus papillosum*, *Rexea solandri*, and *Seriotelella punctata*) that occurred both on the shelf and below 460 m (250 fms). Removal of these species from the matrix (Table 2) provided a better picture of the infra-structure within each zone.

TABLE 1

PERCENTAGE SIMILARITY MATRIX GIVING SPECIES NUMBERS (n)
AND OVERLAPPING OCCURRENCE AT EACH DEPTH RANGE

Depth range (fathoms) [m]		0-15[27]	15-50[91]	50-150[275]	150-250[457]	250-350[640]	>350[640]	n
SHELF	0-15[27]	100	72	33	6	11	0	18
	15-50[91]	20	100	38	9	11	5	65
	50-150[275]	13	53	100	28	28	11	47
SLOPE	150-250[457]	4	24	52	100	84	52	25
	250-350[640]	4	16	29	47	100	69	45
	>350[640]	0	8	14	36	86	100	36

TABLE 2

PERCENTAGE SIMILARITY MATRIX AS IN TABLE 1 BUT
WITH THE TWELVE EURYBATHIC SPECIES REMOVED

Depth range (metres)		0-27	27-91	91-275	275-457	457-640	>690	n
SHELF	0-27	100	69	25	0	0	0	16
	27-91	19	100	31	2	0	0	58
	91-275	11	51	100	11	3	0	35
SLOPE	275-457	0	6	25	100	75	56	16
	457-640	0	0	3	36	100	84	33
	>640	0	0	0	29	84	100	31

Three faunal assemblages appear to be evident on the shelf and upper slope. Although only one sample was taken in less than 27.5 m (15 fms), elements of a shallow water in-shore fauna are apparent. These observations are substantiated by unpublished studies being currently undertaken in the bays and estuaries around Tasmania and in essence are similar to the findings of Walker (1979).

Demersal Fish Faunal Assemblages in Tasmanian Waters

The second, an inner shelf assemblage (27.5 m - 90 m), is well defined, consisting of a fauna which is more diverse than and differs in composition from the outer shelf and slope edge (90-275m). Although these faunas are rather different it is not suggested that the 90 m contour is their "limiting line". Discrete boundaries in faunal distributions are mythical features that are more idealistic than realistic. It is likely that these communities are more complex than indicated in this study and may be further subdivided. Examples of those species most indicative of the inner shelf are *Pristiophorus nudipinnis*, *Lepidotrigla mulhalli* and *Thamnoconus degini* while *Raja nitida*, *Hydrolagus ogilbyi*, *Coelorinchus australis* and *Notopogo lillei* are typical outer shelf species.

The trawled area of slope appears to possess at least two assemblages. An upper slope fauna is well defined with many species occurring down to 730 m (=400 fthms). The best indicators of this community are: *Oxynotus bruntensis*, *Raja* sp. 3, *Euclichthys polynemus*, *Beryx splendens* and *Zenopsis nebulosus*. Suggestions of a fifth assemblage appear with the fringe occurrence, at depths above 550 m, of some species recorded by previous authors (Cowper and Downie 1957; Garrick 1960) as having extended distributions down the slope and probably form part of a mid-slope fauna. Best indicators of this assemblage are: *Mora darnevigii*, *Daenia calcea*, *Scymnodon plunketi*, *Centroscymnus crepidater* and *Dalatias licha* and possibly *Cyttosoma boops*, *Neophrynichthys marcidus* and *Coelorinchus innotabilis*.

Problems in viewing all communities as highly stable co-adapted groups in equilibrium have been discussed by Mills (1969). Depth occurrence of some species are further complicated by variations in the physical environment. Work by Fager and Longhurst (1968) support comments by Smith (1950) on the heterogeneity of deep water fish faunas but the importance of temperature in the bathymetric distribution of species is stressed. Newell (1974), in the study of southern Tasmanian water masses, found that waters below the shelf edge were of one type but on the shelf they became complex and exhibited marked seasonal changes. Thermal stratification and shifts in the thermocline in summer may not affect all species, but the distribution of stenothermal species may be slightly deeper at this time of year.

Clearly many questions need answering before community structure in this region is fully understood. Primarily there is a need to establish a better picture of depth distributions of each species and simultaneously examine coexistence patterns to see if the shelf assemblages can be further sub-divided. Bennett and Pope (1953) have shown the presence of distinct faunal provinces on southern Australian shores and there appears to be a similar structuring of reef fish populations (Last 1979). Fager and Longhurst (1968) have shown that inner shelf faunas can sometimes be split into a number of sub-communities. Complex shelf areas such as Bass Strait may possess complex community structures, as indicated by recent Tasmanian studies (unpublished data).

It is well established that the number of fish species is higher in the more ecologically diverse littoral zone than in deeper offshore waters (Smith 1950). This hypothesis is supported by results from this survey. From a total of 129 species, numbers on the shelf and slope totalled 90 and 54 respectively, sample numbers in each zone were almost equal.

Abundance data for each depth range (Appendix 3) suggested a reversal of the above trends. High total catch rates (weight of fish caught/hour) for each of the three slope depth ranges were experienced; similarly, commercial catch rates were higher for the slope samples. However, relative abundance data only provide an approximation to the real situation, as many variables (i.e. tide, net type and time of day) were not constant throughout the sampling. The dangers of using trawl data as an absolute measure of demersal fish abundances are evident from the work of Fenaughty and O'Sullivan (1978).

Faunal lists of littoral fishes from south-eastern Australia (Winstanley 1979) and New Zealand (Webb 1972) are essentially similar in composition to the fauna of Tasmanian waters. Several species appear to be endemic to the southern Australian region (i.e. some rajid, urolophid, platycephalid, pleuronectid, bothid and monacanthid species)

although some are represented by congeners in other seas.

Briggs (1974) regarded the degree of endemism of Tasmanian fishes as lying between 10 and 30 percent, with the Clinidae, Rajidae, Ostraciontidae and Bovichthyidae as major groups. Apart from some rajid species, all members of these families are confined to the shelf, with the possible exception of *Raja* sp. 1, none of the shelf species taken in this survey is endemic to Tasmanian waters. Endemism appears to be greatest in the intertidal and shallow subtidal zones (unpublished data), but the degree is certainly much less than 10 percent.

The slope fauna is widely distributed with several species either antitropically (i.e. *Squalus blainvillei*, *Centrophorus uyato* and *Pentaceros richardsoni*) or circumglobally (i.e. *Etmopterus lucifer*, *Coelorinchus fasciatus*) distributed and some may be cosmopolitan. Many species, at this stage, are only "superficial" endemics and increased knowledge of these fishes will result in a reduction in endemism (Smith 1950).

Some features of community compositions require brief discussion. Eight families of elasmobranchs, most of which are commercially important, comprise over 30 percent of the total complement of trawl species compared with about 5 percent in shallow inshore waters. The most diverse of these were the squalids, represented by ten species, which were most numerous on the continental slope. Although most species are widely distributed outside Australian waters, in contrast, all members of two rajiform families, Rajidae (10 species) and Urolophidae (4 species) are endemic to the Australian/New Zealand region. Urolophids, being both viviparous and confined to the shelf, experience only localised dispersal. The more homogeneous physical environment of deep water skates is less restricting, geographically, than for shelf species. However behavioural (in low activity benthics) and reproductive (production of demersal eggs) characteristics are possibly major factors in causing the marked endemism exhibited by the group in different marine provinces throughout the world.

The macrourids are the most diverse family of demersal teleosts in this area. Such findings are in accordance with Pearcy and Ambler (1974), who rank the group as the dominant fishes on the slopes and adjoining abyssal plains of the world. In addition, many species still possibly remain unrecorded in Australian waters (McCann and McKnight 1980). The group is very important commercially (Pechenik and Troyanovskii 1970) and although Tasmanian species are not exploited, a close relative, the merlucciid, *Macruronus novaezelandiae* is potentially Tasmania's most important trawl species. Speciose teleost groups of commercial interest include the morids, triglids, uranoscopids and zeids, while some other less diverse families, such as the ophidiids, platycephalids, cheilodactylids, gempylids, centrolophids and pleuronectids, contain important commercial species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank observers from D.P.I. and T.F.D.A. and the crew of the "Zeegaan" for the collection of specimens and trawl data. Also to Dr. D. Cohen, Dr. T. Dix and Dr. J. Paxton for their comments. Mrs. F. Reynolds typed the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- Anonymous, 1975-1978: Summary of "Courageous" cruises 3-37. C.S.I.R.O. Div. Fish. Oceanog. Mm. Rep.
- Anonymous, 1976: "Kaiyo Maru" Investigation Cruise Report. Japan Fisheries Agency. Mm. Rep.
- Anonymous, 1977: South-east Australian deep water trawl survey. Dep. Primary Industry, Fisheries Division. Fisheries Rep. 15: 52 pp.
- Anonymous, 1979a: South-east Australia deepwater trawl survey. Phase 2. Dep. Primary Industry, Fisheries Division. Fisheries Rep. 16:40 pp.
- Anonymous, 1979b: Resource assessment and development investigations. South-west Fisheries Center. Mm. Rep.

Demersal Fish Faunal Assemblages in Tasmanian Waters

- Anonymous, 1979c: A Summary of "Courageous" cruises O46, O47K. *C.I.S.R.O. Div. Fish. Oceanog. Mim. Rep.*
- Baker, A. DeC., 1954: The circumpolar continuity of Antarctic plankton species. *Disc. Rep.* 27: 201-218.
- Bennett, I. and Pope, E. C., 1953: Intertidal zonation of the exposed rocky shores of Victoria, together with a rearrangement of the biogeographical provinces of temperate Australian shores. *Aust. J. Mar. Freshwater Res.* 4(1): 105-160.
- Blackburn, M. and Fairbridge, W.S., 1946: Report on the Danish-seining trials by the M.V. "Liawenee", in southern Tasmanian waters. *J. Coun. Sci. and ind. Res. Aust.* 19 (4): 404-413.
- Briggs, J.C., 1974: MARINE ZOOGEOGRAPHY. McGraw-Hill, New York.
- Cohen, D.M., 1969: Additions to a revision of Argentinine fishes. *Fish. Bull.* 68: 13-36.
- Cowper, T.R., and Downie, R.J., 1957: A line fishing survey of the fishes of the south-eastern Australian continental slope. *C.S.I.R.O. Div. Fish. Oceanog. Rep.* 6: 23 pp.
- Cushing, D.H., 1975: MARINE ECOLOGY AND FISHERIES. Cambridge Uni. Press, London.
- Fager, E.W., 1957: Determination and analysis of recurrent groups. *Ecology* 38 (4): 586-595.
- Fager, E.W., 1963: Communities of organisms. In Hill, M.N. (Ed.): THE SEA. New York Interscience Publishers. 415-437.
- _____ and Longhurst, A.R., (1968): Recurrent group analysis of species assemblages of demersal fish in the Gulf of Guinea. *J. Fish. Res. Bd. Can.* 25 (7): 1405-1421.
- Fenaughty, J.N. and O'Sullivan, K., 1978: Southland trawling prospects for the bottom-trawl industry. *Fisheries Tech. Rep.* 154: 151 pp M.A.F. Information Services, Wellington.
- Fish, C.J., 1925: Seasonal distribution of the plankton of the Woods Hole region. *Bull. U.S. Bur. Fish.* 41: 91-179.
- Follett, W.I. and Dempster, L.J., 1963: Relationships of the percoid fish *Pentaceros richardsoni* Smith, with description of a specimen from the coast of California. *Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.* 32 (10): 315-338.
- Garrick, J.A.F., 1960a: Studies on New Zealand elasmobranchii Part XI. Squalids of the genera *Deania*, *Etmopterus*, *Oxynotus* and *Dalatias* in New Zealand waters. *Trans. R. Soc. N.Z.* 88 (3): 489-517.
- _____, 1960b: Studies on New Zealand elasmobranchii. Part XII. The species of *Squalus* from New Zealand and Australia; a general account and key to the New Zealand Squaloidea. *Trans. R. Soc. N.Z.* 88 (3): 519-557.
- Glover, R.S., 1957: An ecological survey of the drift net herring fishery off the north-east coast of Scotland. Part II. The planktonic environment of the herring. *Bull. Mar. Ecol.* 5: 1-43.
- Gorman, T.B. and Graham, K.J., 1976: Cruise Report of F.R.V. "Kapala" - No. 34 for cruises 76-15 and 76-16. *N.S.W. State Fisheries, Mim. Rep.*
- _____, 1978: Cruise report of F.R.V. "Kapala" No. 46 for cruises 77-23 and 77-24. *N.S.W. State Fisheries Mim. Rep.*
- Grant, J.F., 1974: Observations during a cuttlefish survey of Craig Mostyn & Co. Pty. Ltd., 1973. *Fisheries Division, Tasmanian Department of Agriculture. Mim. Rep.* 13 pp.
- Hutchins, J.B., 1977: Descriptions of three new genera and eight new species of monacanthid fishes from Australia. *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* 5 (1): 3-58.
- Iwamoto, T., 1978: Eastern Pacific macrourids of the genus *Ceolorinchus* Giorna (Pisces: Gadiformes) with descriptions of a new species from Chile. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 41 (12): 307-337.
- James, G., 1978: Fishes of the E.E.Z.: N.Z. Boarfishes, Pigfishes, and Bellows fishes. *Catch '78* 6 (8): 12-13.
- Last, P.R., 1975: Aspects of the taxonomy and ecology of Tasmanian Leatherjackets (F. Monacanthidae, Pisces). *Univ. Tasm. Unpubl. Thesis.* 147 pp.
- _____, 1979: First records of the one spot puller (*Chromis hypsilepis*) and the spotted stingaree (*Urolophus hutchingsi*) from Tasmanian waters with an annotated list of fishes recorded from Kent Islands, Bass Strait. *Tas. Nat.* 59: 5-12.
- Lord, C.E. and Scott, H.H., 1924: A SYNOPSIS OF THE VERTEBRATE ANIMALS OF TASMANIA. Oldham, Beddome and Meredith, Hobart.

P.R. Last and J.G.K. Harris

- McCann, C. and McKnight, D.G., 1980: The marine fauna of New Zealand, macrourid fishes (Pisces: Gadida). *N.Z. Oceanog. Inst. Mem.* 61: 1-91.
- McCulloch, A.R., 1929: A checklist of the fishes recorded from Australia. *Aust. Mus. Mem.* 5: 1-534.
- Mayer, G.F., 1974: A revision of the cardinal fish genus *Epigonus* (Perciformes, Apogonidae), with descriptions of two new species. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 146 (3): 147-203.
- Mills, E.L., 1969: The community concept in marine zoology, with comments on continua and instability in some marine communities: a review. *J. Fish. Res. Bd. Can.* 26: 1415-1428.
- Mohr, E., 1937: Revision of the Centriscidae (Acanthopterygii-Centrisciformes). *Dana Rep.* 13: 1-69.
- Munro, I.S.R., 1956-1961: Handbook of Australian Fishes. *Fisheries Newsletter.* 15-20: 172 pp.
- Nelson, J.S., 1977: Fishes of the southern hemisphere genus *Neophrynichthys* (Scorpaeniformes: Cottoidei), with descriptions of two new species from New Zealand and Macquarie Island. *J. Roy. Soc. N.Z.* 7 (4): 485-511.
- Newell, B.S., 1974: Distribution of oceanic water types off southeastern Tasmania, 1973. *C.S.I.R.O. Div. Fish Oceanog. Rep.* 59: 15 pp.
- Norman, J.R., 1937: Coast Fishes Part II. The Patagonian Region. *Disc. Rep.* 16: 1-150.
- Parin, N.V. and Bekker, V.E., 1972: Classification and distribution data of some trichiurid fishes (Pisces, Trichiuridae, Scombrabrachidae, Gempylidae, Trichiuridae). *U.S.S.R. Acad. of Science - Works of the Institute of Oceanic Studies* 93: 1-27. (In Russian).
- Paul, L., 1978: Fish species of the E.E.Z. First of a series. *Catch* 78 5 (2): 12-13.
- Pearcy, W.G. and Ambler, J.W., 1974: Food habits of deep-sea macrourid fishes off the Oregon coast. *Deep Sea Res.* 21 (9): 745-759.
- Pechenik, L.N. and Troyanovskii, F.M., 1970: TRAWLING RESOURCES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC CONTINENTAL SLOPE. Israel Program for Scientific Translations 65 pp.
- Scott, E.O.G., 1960: Observations on some Tasmanian fishes, Part IX. *Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tasm.* 94: 87-100.
- _____, 1961: Observations on some Tasmanian fishes. Part X. *Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tasm.* 95: 49-65.
- _____, 1969: Notes on some fishes collected in Tasmanian waters by the "Umitaka Maru" in January 1968. Part I. Sharks and Rays. *Tas. Fish. Res.* 3 (2): 11-16.
- _____, 1970: Notes on some fishes collected in Tasmanian waters by the "Umitaka Maru" in January 1968. Part 2. Teleosts. *Tas. Fish. Res.* 4 (1): 13-18.
- _____, 1971: Notes on some fishes collected in Tasmanian waters by the "Umitaka Maru" in January 1968. Part 3. Teleosts. *Tas. Fish. Res.* 5 (1): 14-26.
- Scott, T.D., 1962: THE MARINE AND FRESHWATER FISHES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Govt. Printer, Adelaide.
- Sheard, K., 1949: Plankton characteristics at Cronulla, N.S.W., 1943-1946. *C.I.S.R.O. Aust. Bull.* 246: 1-23.
- _____, 1965: Species groups in the zooplankton of eastern Australian slope waters (1938-41). *Aust. J. Mar. Freshwater Res.* 16: 219-254.
- Smith, J.L.B., 1950: THE SEA FISHES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. Central News Agency Ltd., South Africa.
- Svetovidov, A.N., 1969: On systematic position of *Euclichthys* (Pisces, Gadiformes). *Zool. Zh.* 46: 1824-1831. (In Russian).
- Waite, E.R. and McCulloch, A.R., 1915: The fishes of the South Australian Government trawling cruise, 1914. *Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust.* 39: 455-476.
- Walker, M., 1979: An inventory of the marine resources of the Bunbury marine area and Geographe Bay. *W.A. Dep. Fish. Wildl. Rep.* 37: 46 pp.
- Webb, B.F., 1972: Bottom trawling in Cook Strait and western Taranaki Bight. *N.Z. Mar. Dep. Fish. Tech. Rep.* 77: 1-20.
- _____, and Wolfe, D.C., 1977: Trawl data from a survey around Tasmania by the F.V. "Zeehaan" July 1975 to June 1976. *Tas. Fish. Res.* 21: 15-23.
- Whitley, G.P., 1931: Studies in ichthyology 4. *Rec. Aust. Mus.* 18: 96-133.

Demersal Fish Faunal Assemblages in Tasmanian Waters

Winstanley, R.H., 1979: Results of otter trawling by the F.V. "Battle Axe" in central Victorian coastal waters. *Vic. Fish. Wildl. Pap.* 18: 1-17.
 Wolfe, D.C., 1970: Report on Urania" Cruise in Tasmanian Waters. *Fisheries Division, Tasmanian Department of Agriculture. Mim. Rep.* 5 pp.

APPENDIX 1

TRAWL STATIONS

DEPTH CODE	CRUISE/STATION CODE	Lat.	START Long.	Lat.	FINISH Long.	DEPTH RANGE (metres)
1	C07 - 10	42°00'S	145°14'E	42°04'S	145°13'E	22
2	C10 - 01	40°20'S	145°25'E	40°23'S	145°20'E	45
3	C12 - 04	39°55'S	144°52'E	39°53'S	145°00'E	46
4	C12 - 03	39°59'S	145°03'E	39°57'S	144°59'E	49
5	C12 - 01	40°04'S	145°07'E	40°06'S	145°09'E	51
6	C12 - 02	39°59'S	145°08'E	39°59'S	145°07'E	51
7	C07 - 01	42°09'S	145°08'E	42°08'S	145°05'E	64
8	C07 - 09	41°56'S	145°00'E	42°00'S	145°02'E	70
9	C11 - 01	40°47'S	144°16'E	40°42'S	144°15'E	90-93
10	C06 - 03	43°18'S	145°33'E	43°15'S	145°31'E	157-159
11	C06 - 01	43°18'S	135°32'E	43°15'S	145°26'E	159
12	C06 - 02	43°15'S	145°26'E	43°20'S	145°31'E	159
13	C06 - 04	43°14'S	145°26'E	43°17'S	145°32'E	159-163
14	C04 - 02	44°03'S	146°55'E	41°01'S	147°07'E	165
15	C09 - 05	40°57'S	143°49'E	40°58'S	143°54'E	183
16	C09 - 06	40°50'S	143°53'E	40°53'S	143°47'E	183
17	C11 - 02	40°46'S	143°42'E	-	-	183-220
18	C04 - 01	44°03'S	146°53'E	-	-	238-265
19	C07 - 03	42°06'S	144°43'E	42°00'S	144°40'E	366-420
20	C07 - 07	42°05'S	144°41'E	42°07'S	144°41'E	455-457
21	C07 - 08	42°07'S	144°41'E	42°08'S	144°43'E	457
22	C09 - 02	41°14'S	144°08'E	41°17'S	144°12'E	457-494
23	C07 - 06	42°08'S	144°41'E	42°03'S	144°39'E	485-547
24	C09 - 04	41°01'S	143°51'E	40°54'S	143°44'E	494
25	C07 - 05	42°12'S	144°43'E	42°08'S	144°40'E	530-567
26	C02 - 01	40°48'S	143°36'E	40°41'S	143°31'E	550
27	C03 - 01	42°20'S	144°47'E	-	-	550
28	C09 - 01	41°19'S	144°11'E	41°14'S	144°05'E	550
29	C11 - 04	40°43'S	143°33'E	40°47'S	143°36'E	550
30	C15 - 01	40°32'S	143°27'E	40°39'S	143°30'E	550
31	C15 - 02	40°55'S	143°55'E	-	-	550
32	C15 - 03	41°05'S	143°54'E	-	-	550
33	C17 - 01	41°33'S	148°38'E	41°36'S	148°38'E	550
34	C17 - 02	42°23'S	148°33'E	42°17'S	148°39'E	550
35	C09 - 03	41°10'S	144°01'E	41°02'S	143°52'E	530-640
36	C06 - 05	42°14'S	144°43'E	42°21'S	144°47'E	622-658
37	C08 - 03	41°20'S	144°12'E	41°15'S	144°03'E	622-722
38	C08 - 02	42°15'S	144°43'E	42°19'S	144°46'E	680-710
39	C11 - 03	40°40'S	143°29'E	-	-	677-750
40	C08 - 01	42°21'S	144°45'E	42°15'S	144°43'E	732

	Depth (m)	< 27	27 - 91								91 - 275								275 - 457								457 - 640								> 640						
SPECIES	Code	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
HETERODONTIDAE																																									
Port Jackson shark																																									
<i>Heterodontus portusjacksoni</i>				x	x	x																																			
HEXANCHIDAE																																									
seven-gilled shark		x																																							
<i>Notorhynchus cepedianus</i>		x																																							
ORECTOLOBIDAE																																									
rusty catshark		x		x	x			x	x																																
<i>Parascyllium ferrugineum</i>		x		x	x			x	x																																
SCYLIORHINIDAE																																									
draughtboard shark																																									
<i>Cephaloscyllium laticeps</i>				x	x	x		x					x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x				x			x	x	x	x		x				
spotted catshark																																									
<i>Asymbolis analis</i>				x			x			x		x	x	x	x	x																									
sawtail shark																																									
<i>Galeus boardmani</i>														x			x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x			x			x	x		x				
CARCHARHINIDAE																																									
gummy shark																																									
<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>		x		x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x																											
school shark																																									
<i>Galeorhinus australis</i>				x				x		x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x					x														
SQUALIDAE																																									
prickly dogfish																																									
<i>Oxynotus brieniensis</i>																						x			x		x	x		x		x		x	x		x				x
long snouted dogfish																																									
<i>Deania quadrispinosa</i>																																									
brier shark																																									
<i>Deania calcea</i>																																									
southern dogfish																																									
<i>Centrophorus uyato</i>																																									
Lord Plunket's shark																																									
<i>Scymnodon plunketi</i>																																									
Mollers deepsea shark																																									
<i>Etmopterus lucifer</i>																																									
spiked dogfish																																									
<i>Squalus megalops</i>		x						x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x																								
green-eyed dogfish																																									
<i>Squalus blainvillei</i>																			x							x		x		x		x	x	x	x		x				
white-spotted dogfish																																									

P.R. Last and J.G.K. Harris

[illegible]

Depth (m)	< 27	27 - 91	91 - 275	275 - 457	457 - 640	> 640																																				
SPECIES	Code	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
TORPEDINIDAE																																										
torpedo ray																																										
<i>Narcine tasmaniensis</i>																																										
electric ray																																										
<i>Torpedo macneilli</i>																																										
RHINOBATIDAE																																										
fiddler ray																																										
<i>Trygonorrhina fasciata</i>																																										
CALLORHYNCHIDAE																																										
elephant fish																																										
<i>Callorhynchus milii</i>																																										
CHIMAERIDAE																																										
Ogilby's ghost shark																																										
<i>Hydrolagus ogilbyi</i>																																										
ghost shark																																										
<i>Hydrolagus</i> sp. 1																																										
RHINOCHIMAERIDAE																																										
spookfish																																										
<i>Harriotta raleighana</i>																																										
CONGRIDAE																																										
little conger eel																																										
<i>Gnathophtis habenata</i>																																										
deepsea conger eel																																										
<i>Pseudoxenomystax hirsutus</i>																																										
ARGENTINIDAE																																										
silverside																																										
<i>Argentina australiae</i>																																										
CHLOROPHTHALMIDAE																																										
cucumber fish																																										
<i>Chloropthalmus nigripinnis</i>																																										
NEOSCOPELIDAE																																										
large-scaled lantern fish																																										
<i>Neoscopelus macrolepidotus</i>																																										
MORIDAE																																										
red cod																																										
<i>Pseudophycis bachus</i>																																										
deep sea cod																																										
<i>Mora dannevigii</i>																																										

[illegible]

Depth (m)	< 27	27 - 91	91 - 275	275 - 457	457 - 640	> 640																																				
SPECIES	Code	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
New Zealand dory																																										
<i>Cyttus novaezealandiae</i>												x	x	x		x			x	x																						
OREOSOMATIDAE																																										
spiky dory																																										
<i>Neocyttus rhomboidalis</i>																																										
ox-eyed dory																																										
<i>Cyttosoma boops</i>																																										
MACRORHAMPHOSIDAE																																										
banded bellows fish																																										
<i>Centriscoops obliquus</i>																																										
common bellows fish																																										
<i>Macrorhamphosus scolopax</i>																																										
crested bellows fish																																										
<i>Notopogon liliei</i>													x	x			x	x			x																					
SCORPAENIDAE																																										
red gurnard perch																																										
<i>Helicolenus papillosus</i>																																										
thetis fish																																										
<i>Neosebastes thetidis</i>																																										
common gurnard perch																																										
<i>Neosebastes scorpaenoides</i>																																										
goblin fish																																										
<i>Glyptauchen panduratus</i>																																										
TRIGLIDAE																																										
red gurnard																																										
<i>Chelidonichthys kumu</i>																																										
latchet																																										
<i>Pterygotrigla polyommata</i>																																										
butterfly gurnard																																										
<i>Paratrigla vanessa</i>																																										
round snouted gurnard																																										
<i>Lepidotrigla mulhalli</i>																																										
grooved gurnard																																										
<i>Lepidotrigla modesta</i>																																										
PLATYCEPHALIDAE																																										
tiger flathead																																										
<i>Platycephalus richardsoni</i>																																										
deep-water flathead																																										
<i>Platycephalus conatus</i>																																										

P.R. Last and J.G.K. Harris

[illegible]

DEPTH DISTRIBUTIONS OF FISH SPECIES COLLECTED BY 'ZEEHAAN', JANUARY TO MARCH 1979

[illegible]

P.R. Last and J.G.K. Harris

[illegible]

P.R. Last and J.G.K. Harris

APPENDIX 3

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE BY WEIGHT FOR EACH DEPTH RANGE (METRES) OF THE TEN MAJOR SPECIES GIVING THEIR PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION (p) TO THE TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT (w) AT THAT DEPTH FROM n SAMPLES. TOTAL (C_T) AND COMMERCIAL (C_C) CATCH RATES ARE ALSO GIVEN.

1. 0-29 metres	% weights	2. 27-91 metres	% weights
Elephant fish	33.5	Green Back Stingaree	32.1
Sand Flathead	12.9	Bearded Rock Cod	24.5
Banded Stingaree	8.4	Rounded Snouted Gurnard	8.3
Bearded Rock Cod	8.4	Latchet	3.6
Butterfly Gurnard	8.4	Banded Stingaree	3.4
Latchet	8.4	Thetis Fish	3.2
Spiked Dogfish	4.5	Gummy Shark	1.9
Southern Sawshark	4.5	Angel Shark	1.8
Rusty Catshark	2.2	Arrow Squid	1.6
Gummy Shark	2.2	Elephant Fish	1.6
p = 93.4%		p = 82.0	
w = 179 kg	$C_T = 119.4$ kg/hr	w = 3359	$C_T = 207.6$ kg/hr
n = 1	$C_C = 67.9$ kg/hr	n = 8	$C_C = 84.45$ kg/hr
3. 91-275 metres	% weights	4. 275-457 metres	% weights
Jackass Fish	22.1	Toothed Whiptail	65.8
Latchet	12.5	Blue Grenadier	14.2
Porcupine Fish	7.7	Mirror Dory	7.5
Cucumber Fish	6.7	Green Bight Skate	2.5
School Shark	6.3	Banded Whiptail	2.1
Speckled Stargazer	5.1	Deepwater Ghost Shark	1.3
Ogilby's Ghost Shark	5.0	School Shark	1.3
Spiked Dogfish	4.5	Draughtboard Shark	1.1
Denticulated Skate	3.8	Red Gurnard Perch	1.1
Southern Calamary	2.9	Spiny Flathead	1.1
p = 76.6%		p = 98.0%	
w = 4826 kg	$C_T = 181.9$ kg/hr	w = 1800 kg	$C_T = 502.3$ kg/hr
n = 9	$C_C = 104.19$ kg/hr	n = 3	$C_C = 129.2$ kg/hr
5. 457-640 metres	% weights	6. Greater than 640 metres	% weights
King Dory	35.4	Spiky Dory	58.3
Toothed Whiptail	18.2	Toothed Whiptail	11.3
Blue Grenadier	16.6	Deep Sea Cod	3.6
Red Gurnard Perch	9.7	King Dory	3.3
Banded Bellows Fish	4.5	Red Gurnard Perch	2.9
Spiky Dory	2.8	Banded Bellows Fish	2.7
Deepwater Ghost Shark	1.8	Southern Whiptail	2.7
Gemfish	1.7	Brier Shark	2.5
Deep Sea Cod	1.5	Rockling	2.4
Rockling	1.4	Deepwater Ghost Shark	1.9
p = 92.6%		p = 91.6%	
w = 24760 kg	$C_T = 342.32$ kg/hr	w = 5646 kg	$C_T = 442.8$ kg/hr
n = 15	$C_C = 243.6$ kg/hr	n = 4	$C_C = 333.7$ kg/hr