{rokbox title=|Larva viva de atún rojo (Thunnus thynnus) :: Foto: Asvin Pérez, COB-IEO| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/bft18_640_thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/bft18_640.jpg{/rokbox}

A. P. Torres, P. Reglero, R. Balbin, A. Urtizberea and **F. Alemany**, (2011). **Coexistence of larvae of tuna species and other fish in the surface mixed layer in the NW Mediterranean.**
J. Plankton Res. (2011) 33 (12): 1793-1812. doi: 10.1093/plankt/fbr078

Abstract: To analyze the potential trophic interactions among tuna larvae and other fish species, we studied the larval fish assemblages inhabiting the surface mixed layer around the Balearic Islands using data from two surveys carried out in summer 2006 and 2008. Despite the high diversity, *Thunnus alalunga*, *Auxis rochei*, *Cyclothone pygmaea* and *Ceratoscopelus maderensis* clearly dominated the catch in both years. The spatial distribution of several larval fish assemblages, in which tuna larvae were among the dominant species, was related to the presence of fronts and mixed Atlantic waters (AW). Different developmental stages of tuna were found in similar hydrographical scenarios. Smaller tuna larvae and plausible piscivorous tuna were found in the areas with mixed AW. Later in the season, potential piscivorous tuna were found together with small larvae from other non-tuna species that had been spawned later and transported by the fresh AW flow to offshore stations. That the different life stages of tuna co-occur with mesopelagic species in the mixed layer reveals the interesting possibility of ecological interactions between the different larvae.

Keywords: tuna larvae, Mediterranean, oceanography, mixed surface layer, dominance, coexistence, Balearic Islands, mesopelagic, fish larvae