{rokbox title=|Trophic ecology in marine ecosystems from the Balearic sea (western Mediterranean) :: Image: Author| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-tesis-doctoral-maria-valls-2017-thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-tesis-doctoral-maria-valls-2017.jpg{/rokbox}

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Abstract: Conservation of marine ecosystem structure and functioning is a priority target within the context of environmental management. For such a target is fundamental to know the array of predator-prey interactions as a basis to understand the food web structure and dynamics. In this Thesis, the trophic structure of deep-sea food webs off the Balearic Islands and the feeding ecology of different taxonomic groups playing a key role in the trophodynamics of marine ecosystems, were investigated. Chapter 3 studied the trophic networks based on stable isotope analysis (SIA). A relatively large food web (89 species) encompassing both the pelagic and the hyperbenthic compartment from two geographical areas with contrasting hydrographic conditions were analysed. Although the food webs extended up to 4 trophic levels, both in the pelagic and hyperbenthic compartment, most species occupied intermediate levels. The wide range of isotopic values found suggested a high partitioning rate of trophic resources.

Keywords: feeding ecology, stomach contents, stable isotopes, food sources, trophic level, food web, predator-prey interactions, elasmobranchs, batoids, rays, sharks, cephalopods, squids, Balearic Islands, western Mediterraneans