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# Feeding habits of two shark species *Scyliorhinus canicula* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Galeus melastomus* (Rafinesque, 1810) in the Western Algerian coasts

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## Abstract

The trophic relation of *Scyliorhinus canicula* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Galeus melastomus* (Rafinesque, 1810) was investigated by analyzing the stomach contents of 154 individuals of the lesser-spotted Catshark and 220 individuals of the Blackmouth Catshark collected in the western Algerian coasts during six months. These Catshark species are the most abundant Selacians species on the Mediterranean coastlines. They are presents on the continental shelf on depth ranges partly overlap although and they occur in different habitats. Both of *S. canicula* and *G. melastomus* are characterized by an opportunistic scavengers and generalist feeding habit with a preference prey like Crustacean, followed by Fish, and Cephalopods classed as secondary prey. The broad diets of these Catsharks species and their different prey composition may make them good indicators of the exploitation level and fishing-induced in the ecosystem fishing area.

**Keywords:** Western Algerian coast, *Scyliorhinus canicula*, *Galeus melastomus*, prey, Feeding habits.

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