

Interactive comment on “A new compilation of stomach content data for commercially-important pelagic fish species in the Northeast Atlantic” by J. K. Pinnegar et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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General comments The paper is overall clear, well-written and fits well within the scope of ESSD. You provide us with clear figures about the diet composition of these predators. However, it would be informative to have a table or figure that shows during which months of the year and at which time of day the samples have been collected. This way the reader can easily tell if the data may be biased by only collecting samples at a certain time of the day or during a certain season. Furthermore, could a database be composed that not only informs us what the predators eat, but also what there is for them to eat? Is what they have in their stomachs their choice or do they have to be highly opportunistic? Information on prey preferences from predator fish might give

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more insight into the marine ecosystem. Does such a database already exist?

Specific comments The Introduction is well-written and clear and provides a good motivation for compiling the data-set. The only comment I have on the Introduction is that the paragraphs are not well-connected.

Figure 2 could be enlarged and to me it seems that the maps are viewed with an angle, while a view from above might be clearer.

Technical corrections I have none.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., 7, 197, 2014.