
Observation of a gorged stomach in Crimson jobfish

Crimson jobfish (*Pristipomoides filamentosus*), a member of the family Lutjanidae, are known to primarily consume teleost fishes and crustaceans, particularly shrimp and crabs. However, their dietary habits can shift significantly in response to ecological and reproductive cycles. In September 2024, a specimen of crimson jobfish was collected from the Munambam Fisheries Harbour in Kochi, India (10.18267 N, 76.17041 E), which was caught by a trawler

operating at a depth of 80-200 meters off the Kochi coast, Kerala. This particular specimen was notable not only for its size but for having a fully engorged stomach with a record weight of 214.5 g. The fish itself measured 55.5 cm in total length and weighed 1.87 kg, with the stomach content accounting for a significant portion of its total body mass. The specimen was identified as an adult fish in the regenerating stage. Post-spawning behaviour in

P. filamentosus typically involves migrating to deeper waters in search of food. This transition is linked to a change in feeding strategy, from the specialized diet observed during the breeding season to a more generalist, opportunistic feeding pattern post-reproduction.

The stomach contents analysed, indicated that the diet consisted predominantly of deep-water species. The prey items were identified to the species level are summarized in Table 1. The fish had consumed a diverse range of prey, including shrimps, flatheads, threadfin breams, and crabs. This varied diet is characteristic of *P. filamentosus* when it forages in deeper waters, reflecting its ability to adapt to different ecological niches based on life cycle stages, highlighting its resilience and versatility as a deep-water predator. This flexibility may contribute to its survival in dynamic marine environments, where prey availability can fluctuate due to environmental changes and anthropogenic impacts. Understanding such dietary adaptations is crucial for fisheries management, as it can inform sustainable harvesting practices and conservation strategies for deep-



Diverse range of prey from the stomach of *P. filamentosus*

water snapper species. These findings contribute to our knowledge of the ecological behaviour of *P. filamentosus* and emphasize the importance of further studies on their seasonal feeding strategies and habitat utilization.

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Table 1. Composition of gut content

Sl. No.	Diet Content	Weight (g)	Length Range (mm)	No. of Individuals
1	<i>Metapenaeopsis andamanensis</i>	72	35-70	96
2	<i>Grammoplites suppositus</i>	16.82	38-75	20
3	<i>Cociella crocodilus</i>	37	72-100	10
4	<i>Nemipterus randalli</i>	24.6	27-83	9
5	<i>Monomia argentata</i>	4.2	16-21 (carapace width)	6