Diet of Atlantic salmon highly variable

Atlantic salmon (part of NOAA’s Species in the Spotlight initiative) have a flexible diet, capable of feeding on a variety of suitable species. Dieting along with Stage 2 is their initial foraging strategy, to forage on benthic invertebrates. However, according to their life history in saline environments, bolder foraging strategies include the use of larger-scale strategies, particularly important given recent decline in marine prey availability as a result of changing times and human impact. A number of factors are known to influence these differences, such as the number of years of life. The variability in diet is highly variable across ages and sexes, and temporada variations are observed at all life stages. Atlantic salmon (part of NOAA’s Species in the Spotlight initiative) are a vital part of freshwater ecosystems and are an important food source for both humans and marine vertebrates. This highlights the need for a comprehensive understanding of the diet of these important salmonids.

The potential for ship strikes and fisheries interactions with Gulf of Mexico Bryde’s whales

Bryde’s whales are one of the larger baleen whales and can travel thousands of miles throughout the northwestern Pacific Ocean. They are known to feed on a variety of fish species, including squid, and are considered to be an important food source for many marine birds and mammals. Despite the distribution of these whales, the industrial activities in the Gulf of Mexico could be a threat to their population. Therefore, it is important to continue monitoring their distribution to assess the potential impacts of human activities on their population.

The Gulf of Mexico is one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world, and is home to a diverse range of marine life, including Bryde’s whales. The potential for ship strikes and fisheries interactions with these whales is a concern, as their population is already considered to be at risk. It is important to continue monitoring their distribution and behavior to assess the potential impacts of human activities on their population.

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Photo courtesy of NOAA's National Marine Mammal Laboratory.

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Sea turtles are incidentally captured in trawls and gillnets to assess what different factors could be contributing to the decline, they found long-term, significant decreases in somatic growth in both juveniles and adults in the Gulf of Mexico. They also found that sea turtle mortality associated with gas embolism (GE) can injure and impair organs, or even cause death. Gas embolism can occur when entrapped gas in the blood stream (embolism) and tissues of the turtles. Ge,fishery activities may be significantly underestimated as the risk of gas embolism in sea turtles is increasing. Gas embolism in sea turtles may be a significant threat to sea turtle populations. When sea turtles are incidentally captured in trawls and gillnets to assess what different factors could be contributing to the decline, they found long-term, significant decreases in somatic growth in both juveniles and adults in the Gulf of Mexico. They also found that sea turtle mortality associated with gas embolism (GE) can injure and impair organs, or even cause death.

Photo courtesy of NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration.

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The Protected Species Science Branch (PSSB) within the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the conservation of 20 species of marine mammals, 1 species of marine bird, 27 species of fish, and 1 species of snail. The NMFS uses science to inform its decisions, and NMFS is one of the NOAA Fisheries Offices.

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