

Corrigendum

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Diet of the Australian fur seal in Tasmania. *Rosemary Gales and David Pemberton*

The equations given to estimate the length and mass of both jack mackerel and redbait (presented in the Appendix, p. 664) were incorrect. Subsequent to the publication of the paper, the authors were advised by G. Pullen (Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries) that the Department had provided erroneous equations. The correct equations are as follows:

Jack mackerel, *Trachurus declivis*  
 $[FL] \text{ (cm)} = -4.77 + 3.864E-3 \times [OL](\mu\text{m})$  ( $r^2=0.922$ ,  $n=2488$ , FL range = 6.7–44.0)  
 $\text{Log } (W, \text{g}) = -13.104 + 3.953 \times \text{log } ([OL] \mu\text{m})$  ( $r^2=0.938$ ,  $n=2488$ , W range = 3–990)

Redbait, *Emmelichthys nitidus*  
 $[FL] \text{ (cm)} = -3.494 + 3.565E-3 \times OL \text{ (}\mu\text{m)}$  ( $r^2=0.961$ ,  $n=406$ , FL range = 10.4–30.5)  
 $\text{Log } (W, \text{g}) = -13.872 + 4.154 \times \text{log } ([OL] \mu\text{m})$  ( $r^2=0.959$ ,  $n=406$ , W range = 12–377).

Application of these equations significantly reduced the estimated sizes of the fish consumed by the fur seals. The revised estimates of the size of fish are as follows:

Species	Length	n	Length (cm)		Mass (g)	
			Mean $\pm$ s.d.	Range	Mean $\pm$ s.d.	Range
Redbait	Fork	194	17.0 $\pm$ 1.2	14–21	57 $\pm$ 15	31–126
Jack mackerel	Fork	48	21.2 $\pm$ 2.8	16–31	116 $\pm$ 56	48–367

The distribution of the size classes of jack mackerel and redbait are shown in Fig. 1. The differences between the original and revised estimates of size are significant (paired *t*-tests: jack mackerel length  $t=68.998$ , mass  $t=14.332$ ,  $df=47$ ,  $P<0.0001$ ; redbait length  $t=230.118$ , mass  $t=114.9$ ,  $df=193$ ,  $P<0.0001$ ).

The implications for the interpretation of the data are that, rather than the seals consuming fish of adult size (jack mackerel mean length at maturity 27 cm; redbait mean length at maturity 21 cm), it appears that in this study the seals primarily consumed subadult fish.

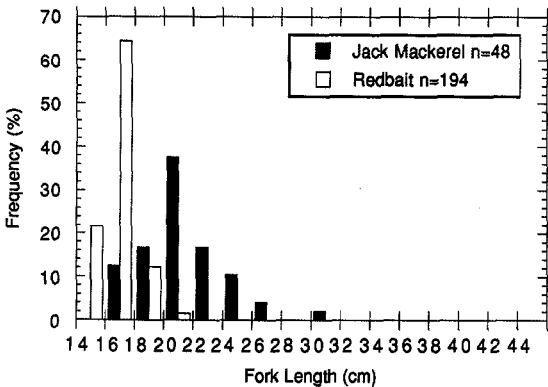


Fig. 1. Frequency distributions of the calculated fork lengths of redbait and jack mackerel as assessed from otoliths in Australian fur seal diet samples (to replace fig. 3 in original paper).