

Fig. S1. Hydrographic features during the austral winter and summer in the northern and southern Benguela Upwelling Systems. Plots show temperature, salinity, oxygen concentration and fluorescence as well as potential temperature vs. salinity (T-S). In the T-S plots, open squares represent the upper and lower temperature and salinity limits for Eastern South Atlantic Central Water (ESACW) and closed squares represent the limits for South Atlantic Central Water (SACW) as described in Poole & Tomczak (1999), Rae (2005), Mohrholz et al. (2008), and Flohr et al. (2014). Plots shown here for summer communities are also described in Duncan et al. (2022). Mixed Upwelled Water is shown with MUW. Stations with water mass properties that deviate from the rest of the group are labeled (e.g. temperature of St. 22 in the Summer).

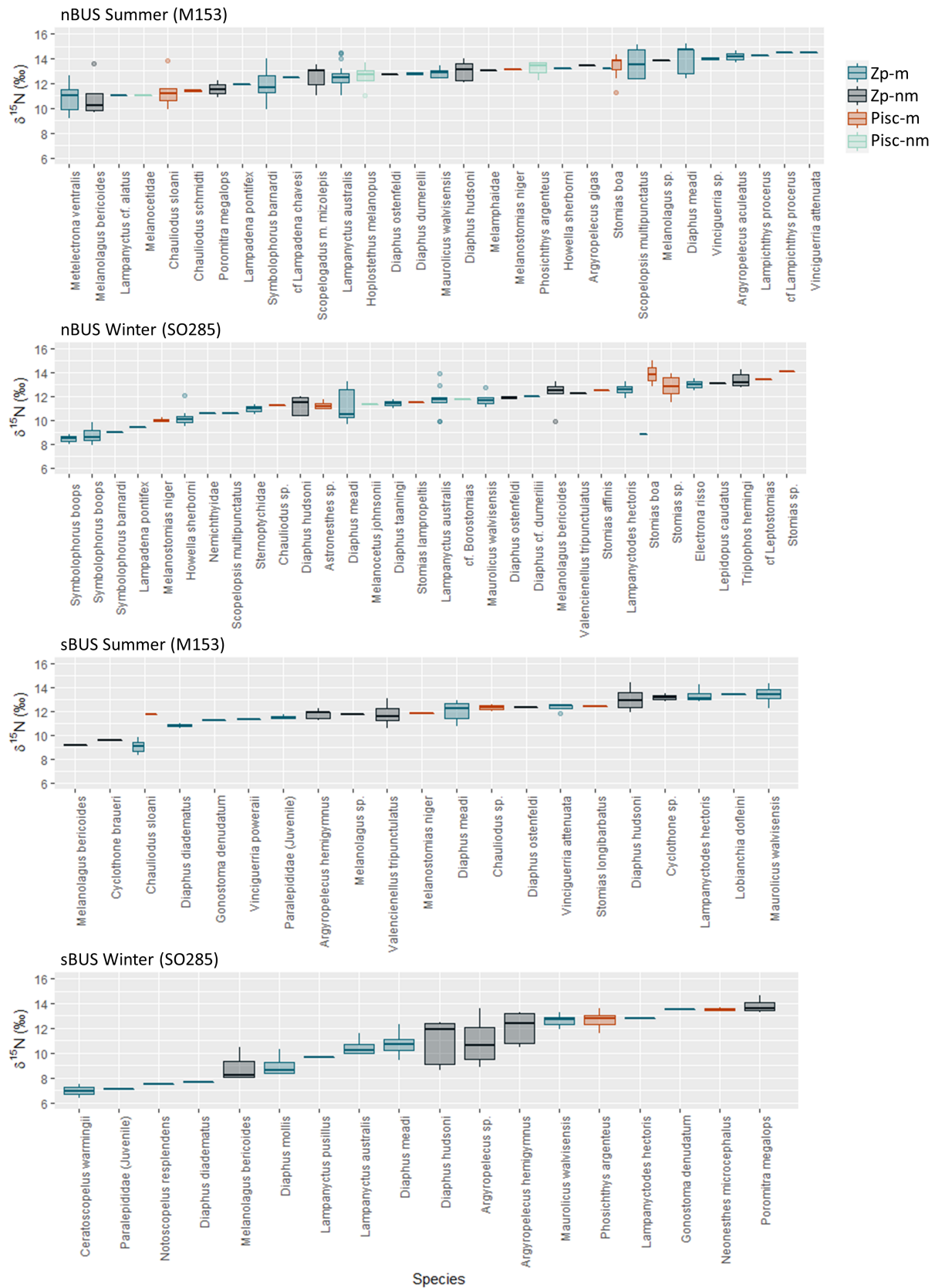


Fig. S2. Boxplot showing the $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ of mesopelagic fishes in the northern and southern Benguela subsystems during summer (February and March) and winter (September and October) and their assigned feeding guilds. Zooplanktivores: zp, piscivores: pisc, migrators: m, non-migrators: nm.

Table S1. Stations sampled for mesopelagic fishes using the Rectangular Midwater Trawl (RMT 8) on cruises *Meteor* M153 and *Sonne* SO285 in the southern (sBUS) and northern (nBUS) Benguela upwelling systems.

Subsystem - Season	Station Nr.	Date	Time of deployment (UTC)	Bottom depth (m)	Latitude (°S)	Longitude (°E)
sBUS - Summer						
	M153_8	19.02.2019	22:05	337	-31.022	15.992
	M153_15	21.02.2019	16:41	397	-32.027	16.414
	M153_16	22.02.2019	00:13	800	-32.029	15.998
	M153_17	22.02.2019	12:29	820	-32.055	15.025
	M153_18-2	23.02.2019	04:28	1270	-31.072	15.241
	M153_18-4	23.02.2019	16:50	1270	-31.094	15.234
	M153_18-9-1	24.02.2019	23:01	1270	-31.018	15.134
	M153_18-9-2	25.02.2019	00:24	1270	-31.042	15.081
	M153_18_18-9-3	25.02.2019	06:33	1270	-30.982	15.115
	M153_22	26.02.2019	21:22	186	-30.035	16.427
	M153_24	27.02.2019	15:59	537	-30.093	14.667
	M153_25	28.02.2019	00:11	1088	-30.036	14.327
	M153_26	28.02.2019	02:35	1111	-29.910	14.320
sBUS - Winter						
	SO285_19	15.09.2021	00:50	940	-31.050	15.432
	SO285_20	15.09.2021	06:15	834	-31.994	15.999
	SO285_22	18.09.2021	00:23	2561	-31.674	14.679
	SO285_26	19.09.2021	00:02	1073	-31.964	15.811
	SO285_27	19.09.2021	03:10	823	-31.999	15.999
	SO285_33	20.09.2021	01:40	255	-31.993	16.995
	SO285_64	23.09.2021	13:14	1255	-31.020	15.231
	SO285_67	23.09.2021	23:51	1960	-30.812	14.786
	SO285_70	24.09.2021	21:17	817	-30.161	14.540

nBUS - Summer						
M153_34	03.03.2019	19:15	1229	-23.060	12.660	
M153_35-4	04.03.2019	16:46	2286	-23.039	12.234	
M153_35-5-1	04.03.2019	22:12	2286	-23.015	12.250	
M153_35-5-2	05.03.2019	00:55	2286	-23.053	12.251	
M153_36	05.03.2019	23:34	2317	-22.381	12.010	
M153_38	06.03.2019	18:04	1895	-21.055	11.497	
M153_39-1	07.03.2019	02:14	1025	-21.007	11.998	
M153_39-3	07.03.2019	17:12	1004	-21.041	12.016	
M153_39-4	07.03.2019	22:47	1015	-21.002	11.999	
M153_40	08.03.2019	09:17	437	-20.990	12.484	
M153_45	09.03.2019	17:53	427	-20.025	11.831	
M153_46	09.03.2019	21:28	2619	-19.913	11.417	
M153_49	10.03.2019	22:42	590	-21.686	12.587	
nBUS - Winter						
SO285_110	01.10.2021	21:18	1856	-23.076	12.408	
SO285_111	02.10.2021	01:03	2336	-23.024	12.213	
SO285_120	04.10.2021	01:41	2327	-20.946	11.110	
SO285_122	04.10.2021	21:32	1066	-21.135	12.028	
SO285_123	05.10.2021	02:30	774	-21.032	12.209	
SO285_138	06.10.2021	19:53	642	-20.205	11.769	
SO285_139	07.10.2021	02:48	821	-20.107	11.522	
SO285_141	07.10.2021	23:32	906	-21.763	12.460	
SO285_142	08.10.2021	02:58	317	-21.699	12.802	
SO285_154	09.10.2021	20:11	349	-23.030	13.333	

Table S2. Description of diet and migration patterns of mesopelagic fishes that were used to characterize feeding guilds for statistical analysis and their respective references.

Family	Species	Feeding guild	Diet	Migration pattern	References for diet	References for migration patterns
Bathylagidae	<i>Melanolagus bericoides</i>	zp-nm	Mostly copepods, followed by ostracods, decapods, amphipods, pelagic coelenterates, and other zooplankton	400-900 m day, 200-900 m night	Cohen (1984) in Whitehead et al. (2014)	Williams et al. (1997)
Gonostomatidae	<i>Cyclothone</i> sp.	zp-nm	Mostly calanoid copepods such as <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp., some ostracods (<i>Conchoecia</i>) and decapods and few non-calanoid copepods	400-600 m day and night	Bernal et al. (2015), Hopkins et al. (1996)	Olivar et al. (2012)
	<i>Gonostoma denudatum</i>	zp-m	Benthic invertebrates and planktivorous crustaceans	400-700 m day, 100-200 m night	Froese & Pauly (2000)	Badcock (1984) in Whitehead et al. (2014)
	<i>Triplophos hemingi</i>	zp-pm	No data for genus size similar to <i>G. denudatum</i> or <i>P. argenteus</i> . Classification based on these species	200-800 m day, night	See <i>G. denudatum</i> and <i>P. argenteus</i>	Smith et al. (2003)
Howellidae	<i>Howella sherborni</i>	zp-m	Pelagic crustaceans	For genus: 305-1829 m day and near surface at night	Macpherson (1989)	Busby & Orr (1999), Eschmeyer et al. (1983)
Melamphaidae	<i>Poromitra megalops</i>	zp-nm	Euphausiids, decapods, amphipods, mysids, copepods, larvacean pellets, chaetognaths, digenean trematodes	Below 400 m day and night	Bartow (2010)	Whitehead et al. (2014), Smith et al. (2003)

<i>Scopelogadus mizolepis mizolepis</i>	zp-nm	Crustaceans, mostly amphipods and non-crustaceans (tunicates, siphonophores, pteropods) when above 30 mm	No migration to surface, ascends slightly from below 650 m at night	Hopkins et al. (1996)	Unpublished data
Melanocetidae					
<i>Melanocetus johnsonii</i>	pisc-nm	Micronekton, including <i>Chauliodus</i> spp., unidentified crustaceans, unidentified fish	850-1225 m day and night	Romero-Romero et al. (2019), Froese and Pauly (2000)	Romero-Romero et al. (2019)
Myctophidae					
<i>Ceratoscopelus warmingi</i>	zp-m	Mostly appendicularians, followed by copepods, salps, euphausiids (adult and larvae), fish scales, ostracods, amphipods, gastropods, chaetognaths, siphonophores, fish larvae, pteropods	900-1500 m day, 25-200 m night	Kinzer & Schulz (1985), Woodstock et al. (2020)	Kinzer & Schulz (1985), Badock & Merrett (1976)
<i>Diaphus diadematus</i>	zp-m	Classification based on literature for <i>D. dumerelli</i>	Upper 100 m at night	Williams et al. (2001), Woodstock et al. (2020)	Hulley (1981); Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Diaphus dumerelli</i>	zp-m	Mostly crustaceans; copepods such as <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp., <i>Calanus</i> spp., <i>Metridia</i> spp., <i>Neocalanus</i> spp., amphipods, hyperiids, many euphausiids such as <i>Nematoscelis</i> spp., some decapods, few fish scales, pteropods, amphipods	400-900 m day, 0-900 m night	Williams et al. (2001), Woodstock et al. (2020)	Williams et al. (2001)
<i>Diaphus hudsoni</i>	zp-nm	Copepods such as <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp., few ostracods, hyperiids, euphausiids	Below 250 m night	Pakhomov et al. (1996)	Hulley (1981), Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Diaphus</i> cf. <i>meadi</i>	zp-m	Copepods, euphausiids, hyperiids, ostracods	Upper 250 m at night	Unpublished data	Hulley (1981), Smith et al. (2003)

<i>Diaphus mollis</i>	zp-m	Copepods, ostracods, few pteropods, decapods and polychaetes	300-800 m day, 33-350 m night	Woodstock et al. (2020)	Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Diaphus ostenfeldi</i>	zp-nm	Classification based on that of genus	Adults below 160 m at night, juveniles in less than 100 meters		Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Diaphus taaningi</i>	zp-m	Mostly herbivorous zooplankton; copepods and larvaceans	250 m day, upper 50 night	Baird et al. (1975)	Baird et al. (1975)
<i>Electrona risso</i>	zp-m	Data for genus (<i>E. antarctica</i>); <i>Euphausia</i> spp., <i>Metridia</i> spp., <i>Euchaeta</i> spp., ostracods, and few salps and <i>Pelagobia</i> spp.	225-750 m day, 90-550 m night (size stratified with depth)	Hopkins (1985)	Smith et al. (2003)
cf. <i>Lampadena chavesi</i>	zp-m	Classification based on that of genus	600-800 m day, 40-175 m night		Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Lampadena pontifex</i>	zp-m	Mostly Calanoida and <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp. copepods, ostracods, few fish scales	275-750 m day, 90-275 m night	Pakhomov et al. (1996)	Hulley (1990)
<i>Lampanyctodes hectoris</i>	zp-m	Copepods, amphipods, euphausiids	100-300 m day, upper 50 m night	Young and Blaber (1986)	Hulley & Prosch (1987)
<i>Lampanyctus australis</i>	zp-m	Mostly crustaceans; copepods such as <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp., <i>Calanus</i> spp., <i>Metridia</i> spp., <i>Neocalanus</i> spp., amphipods, hyperiids, many euphausiids such as <i>Nematoscelis</i> spp., some decapods, few fish	0-900 m night, 400-900 m day	Williams et al. (2001), Woodstock et al. (2020)	Williams et al. (1997, 2001)

<i>Lampanyctus</i> cf. <i>alatus</i>	zp-m	Euphausiids, copepods, especially <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp., amphipods, decapods	275-1000 m day, 40-275 m night; ind. with less than 80 mm length upper 100 m at night	Hopkins & Baird (1985), McClain-Counts et al. (2017)	Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Lampanyctus pusillus</i>	zp-m	Copepods, mostly <i>Oncaea</i> spp., some <i>Lucicutia</i> spp., <i>Euphausia</i> (furcilia)	483-1000 m day, 25-200 m night	Pakhomov et al. (1996)	Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Lampichthys</i> cf. <i>procerus</i>	zp-m	Classification based on family data for vertically migrating species	400-900 m day, 0-400 m night		Williams et al (1997)
<i>Lepidophanes guentheri</i>	zp-m	Copepods, appendicularians, euphausiids, ostracods, fish scales	425-750 m day, 40-125 m night	Kinzer & Schulz (1985)	Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Lobianchia dofleini</i>	zp-m	Mostly calanoid copepods such as <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp., followed by ostracods, non-calanoid copepods, larvaceans, chaetognaths, euphausiids	300-750 m day, 25-400 m night	Bernal et al. (2015)	Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Metelectrona ventralis</i>	zp-m	Data for <i>Metelectrona herwigi</i> , mostly euphausiids (<i>Euphausia similis</i> most abundant), followed by copepods (<i>Pleuromamma</i> spp. most abundant followed by <i>Metridia</i> spp.), some amphipods	0-350 m at night, no data for day	Pakhomov et al. (1996)	Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Notoscopelus resplendens</i>	zp-m	Mostly copepods such as <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp. and <i>Calanus</i> spp., as well as euphausiids, many <i>Thysanoessa</i> spp., few polychaetes	651-2000 m day and 50-300 m night	Pakhomov et al. (1996)	Smith et al. (2003)

<i>Scopelopsis multipunctatus</i>	zp-m	Copepods (mostly Calanoida), amphipods, euphausiids, occasionally larval molluscs, ostracods, polychaetes, siphonophores. Salps most common prey outside of eddies but none found for fish inside eddies	45-155 m at day, night not specified	Brandt (1981), Pakhomov et al. (1996)	Nafpaktitus et al. (1977)
<i>Symbolophorus barnardi</i>	zp-m	<i>Calanus</i> spp. and <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp. copepods, hyperiids	300-900 m day, 0-400 m night	Pakhomov et al. (1996)	Williams et al. (1997)
<i>Symbolophorus boops</i>	zp-m	Mostly copepod <i>Metridia lucens</i> , some euphausiids, amphipods, chaetognaths, very few salps, and fish, molluscs, decapods	525-900 m day, 0-400 m night	Pakhomov et al. (1996)	Williams & Koslow (1997); Williams & Koslow (2001)
Nemichthyidae					
Unidentified species	zp-m	Mostly decapods, followed by euphausiids	100-300 m day & 0-150 m day	Feagans-Bartow & Sutton (2014)	Castonguay & McCleave (1987)
Paralepididae					
Unidentified juvenile	zp-m	For <i>Lestidiops affinis</i> : mainly planktonic crustaceans	For <i>Lestidiops</i> sp. 0-105 m, 200-200 m but larvae <200 m (for <i>Lestidiops jayakari</i>), day and night not specified	Whitehead et al. (1984)	Ekau et al. (2000), Espinosa-fuentes et al. (2013), Whitehead et al. (1984)
Phosichthyidae					
<i>Phosichthys argenteus</i>	pisc-nm	Mostly fish, followed by copepods and euphausiids, very few hyperiids, gammarids, and amphipods, decapods, molluscs, salps	200-900 m day, 200-900 m night	Williams et al. (2001)	Williams et al. (1997, 2001)

<i>Vinciguerria attenuata</i>	zp-m	Copepods, especially <i>Pleuromamma</i> spp., followed by ostracods, amphipods, euphausiids, others	250-600 m day, 100-500 m night	Carmo et al. 2015	Smith et al. (2003)
<i>Vinciguerria poweraii</i>	zp-m	Small crustaceans with larger individuals feeding on euphausiids	300-600 m day, 50-350 m night	Badcock (1984) in Whitehead et al. (2014), Hopkins et al. 1996	Badcock (1984) in Whitehead et al. (2014)
<i>Vinciguerria</i> sp.	zp-m	Classification based on that of genus	Classification based on that of genus		
Sternoptychidae					
<i>Argyropelecus aculeatus</i>	zp-m	Mostly ostracods, followed by copepods, molluscs, amphipods, euphausiids, decapods, polychaetes, chaetognaths, tunicates, very rarely fish	300-500 m day, 100-200 m night	Hopkins and Baird (1985), Carmo et al. (2015), Hopkins et al. (1996)	Hopkins et al. (1985), Kinzer and Schulz (1988)
<i>Argyropelecus gigas</i>	zp-nm	For genus: Mostly copepod, amphipod, ostracod in other non-migrators of genus	400-900 m day, 400-900 m night		Williams et al. (1997)
<i>Argyropelecus hemigymnus</i>	zp-m	Day and night feeders, mostly calanoid and non-calanoid copepods (<i>Oncaea</i> spp., <i>Clausocalanus</i> spp.) and ostracods, larvaceans	400-600 m day and night	Bernal et al. (2015), Carmo et al. (2015), Hopkins et al. (1996)	Bernal et al. (2015)

<i>Maurolicus walvisensis</i>	zp-m	Diet based on that of <i>M. muelleri</i> : Mostly calanoid copepods and euphausiids followed by cladocerans	Strong vertical migration pattern, 100-500 m isobath, no specific data for day and night	Carmo et al. (2015), Hopkins et al. (1996)	Armstrong & Prosch (1991)
<i>Valencienellus tripunctulatus</i>	zp-nm	Almost exclusively copepods, <i>Pleuromamma</i> most abundant genus	290-460 m day, 180-500 m night, but little difference in day and night distributions	Hopkins & Baird (1981)	Hopkins & Baird (1981)
Stomiidae					
<i>Astronesthes</i> sp.	pisc-m	Fish, especially myctophids of genus <i>Diaphus</i> , euphausiids, copepods, very few ostracods and cephalopods	500-650 m day, 50-200 m night, information for genus	Sutton & Hopkins (1996)	Clarke (1974)
cf. <i>Borostomias</i> sp.	pisc-nm	Fish, including <i>Scopelogadus mizolepis</i>	610-900 m, no differentiation between day and night	Sutton & Hopkins (1996)	Eduardo (2021)
<i>Chauliodus schmidti</i>	pisc-m; <60 mm classified as zp-m	For <i>C. sloani</i> : 100% pisces	For <i>C. sloani</i> : 400-900 m day, 100-900 m night		
<i>Chauliodus sloani</i>	pisc-m; <60 mm classified as zp-m	100% pisces	400-900 m day, 100-900 m night	Williams et al. (2001)	Williams et al. (2001)

<i>Chauliodus sp.</i>	pisc-m; <60 mm classified as zp-m	Classification based on that of genus	Classification based on that of genus		
cf. <i>Leptostomias</i>	pisc-m	Classification based on family	500-625 m day, 100-250 m night		Clarke (1974)
<i>Melanostomias niger</i>	pisc-m	Genus data (<i>M. affinis</i>): primary prey are myctophids (<i>Diaphus</i> spp.)	50-680 m for <i>Melanostomias</i> sp., no specifics for day and night	Sutton & Hopkins (1996)	Leandro (2021)
<i>Neonesthes microcephalus</i>	pisc-nm	Classification based on family	Record taken at night at 640 m and in an oblique tow to 1600 m		Clarke (1974)
<i>Stomias affinis</i>	pisc-m	Mostly fish, especially myctophids and in genus <i>Diaphus</i> , some decapods such as <i>Sergestes</i> spp. and <i>Parapandalus</i> spp.	100-1000 m day, surface to 900 m at night	Sutton & Hopkins (1996)	Butler et al. (2001)
<i>Stomias lampropeltis</i>	pisc-m	Assignment based on genus information	Assignment based on genus information		
<i>Stomias longibarbatulus</i>	pisc-m	Assignment based on genus information	260-800 m day, night	Mauchline & Gordon (1983) and refs within	Leandro (2021)
<i>Stomias boa</i>	pisc-m; <60 mm classified as zp-m	Mostly fish and some crustaceans	900-1500 m day, 100-500 m night	Mauchline & Gordon (1983) and refs within; Froese & Pauly (2000)	Gibbs (1969)

Trachichthyidae					
<i>Hoplostethus melanopus</i>	pisc-nm	Reference for genus: myctophids and <i>Chauliodus</i> spp., isopod <i>Natantolana borealis</i> , Decapoda, Sergestidae and Pasiphaeidae, amphipod <i>Tryphosites longipes</i> , squid, amphipods, mysids	For genus: 750-1200 m day and night	Macpherson (1983), Rosecchi et al. (1988), Fanelli et al. (2010)	Rosecchi et al. (1988)
Trichiuridae					
<i>Lepidopus caudatus</i>	zp-nm	Mostly euphausiids, also squid, mesopelagic fish such as <i>Maurolicus</i> spp. and <i>L. hectoris</i> , small hake, mysids,	333-620 m, migrate to midwater at night	Meyer & Smale (1991), unpubl. data	Parin (1986), Mytilineou et al. (2005)

Table S3. Mesopelagic fish species sampled in summer and winter in the northern (nBUS) and southern (sBUS) Benguela subsystems and their respective sample size (n), body shape (B), standard length (SL), gape size, and stable isotope ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$) values. Body shapes include elongated (e), fusiform (f), and short-deep (s). Missing values: Individuals not measured for gape size and/or standard length.

Family	Taxon	n	B	Mean SL (mm)	SL range (mm)	Mean gape size (mm)	Gape size range (mm)	Mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ \pm SD	Mean $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ \pm SD	Mean C:N \pm SD
nBUS - Summer (M153)										
Baseline - copepod	<i>Nannocalanus minor</i>	3						-20.3 \pm 0.4	8.2 \pm 1.07	4.3 \pm 0.1
Bathylagidae	<i>Melanolagus bericoides</i>	5	e	106 \pm 14	84-124	4	4	-17.8 \pm 0.3	10.9 \pm 1.6	3.4 \pm 0.4
	<i>Melanolagus</i> sp.	1	e	68	68	3	3	-17.7	13.8	3.3
Howellidae	<i>Howella sherborni</i>	1	f	84	84	10	10	-17.7	13.2	4
Melamphaidae	Melamphaidae	1	s	49	49	6	6	-18.2	13.0	3.3
	<i>Poromitra megalops</i>	2	s	38 \pm 2.5	36-40	5	5	-17.9 \pm 0.2	11.6 \pm 0.92	4.0 \pm 0.8

	<i>Scopelogadus mizolepis</i>	7	s	31 ± 12.5	18-49	4 ± 2	2-6	-17.9 ± 0.4	12.5 ± 0.99	4.0 ± 0.4
	<i>mizolepis</i>									
Melanocetidae	Melanocetidae	1	s	31	31	14	14	-17.4	11.0	3.4
Myctophidae	cf. <i>Lampadena chavesi</i>	1	f	91	91			-17.0	12.5	5.8
	cf. <i>Lampichthys procerus</i>	1	f	65	65			-18.2	14.5	4.1
	<i>Diaphus dumerelli</i>	2	f	68 ± 3.5	65-70	12	12	-16.5 ± 0.4	12.8	7.2 ± 0.5
	<i>Diaphus hudsoni</i>	5	f	39 ± 11.1	25-49			-18.6 ± 0.3	13.0	3.8 ± 0.5
	<i>Diaphus meadi</i>	5	f	37 ± 7.3	29-45			-19.1 ± 0.2	14.0	3.7 ± 0.2
	<i>Diaphus ostenfeldi</i>	1	f	66	66	11	11	-16.5	12.7	8.6
	<i>Lampadena pontifex</i>	1	f	85	85	15	15	-16.1	11.9	7.4
	<i>Lampanyctus australis</i>	30	e	81 ± 12	44-99	15 ± 3	10-19	-17.6 ± 0.6	12.5 ± 0.75	4.1 ± 1.2
	<i>Lampanyctus</i> cf. <i>alatus</i>	1	e					-18.3	11.0	4.1
	<i>Lampichthys procerus</i>	1	f	70	70			-17.4	14.2	6.1
	<i>Metelectrona ventralis</i>	5	f	63 ± 3.6	58-68	10	10	-17.5 ± 0.7	10.8 ± 1.34	4.2 ± 0.6
	<i>Scopelopsis</i>	4	f	65 ± 7.7	58-78	11 ± 1.8	9-14	-18.9 ± 0.2	13.6 ± 1.2	5.1 ± 1.1
	<i>multipunctatus</i>									
	<i>Symbolophorus barnardi</i>	5	f	78 ± 9.5	63-87	10 ± 1.6	8-12	-18.0 ± 1.0	11.9 ± 1.5	3.6 ± 0.5
Phosichthyidae	<i>Phosichthys argenteus</i>	4	e	106 ± 14.6	93-125	16 ± 2.5	14-20	-18.3 ± 0.3	13.2 ± 0.7	3.3 ± 0.1
	<i>Vinciguerria attenuata</i>	1	f	31	31			-18.7	14.5	3.3
	<i>Vinciguerria</i> sp.	2	f	52	52	10	10	-18.2 ± 0.1	14.0 ± 0.1	3.4 ± 0.1
Sternoptychidae	<i>Argyropelecus aculeatus</i>	2	s	23 ± 1.2	23-24	6 ± 1.4	5-7	-18.4 ± 0.0	14.2 ± 0.6	3.3
	<i>Argyropelecus gigas</i>	1	s	43	43	10	10	-18.0	13.4	3.4
	<i>Maurolicus walvisensis</i>	8	f	35		7.5		-18.5 ± 0.3	12.8 ± 0.3	3.8 ± 0.3
Stomiidae	<i>Chauliodus schmidti</i>	2	e	105 ± 3.5	102-107	12	12	-17.8 ± 0.7	11.4 ± 0.1	3.3
	<i>Chauliodus sloani</i>	6	e	119 ± 24.9	94-152	12 ± 2.3	10-17	-18.0 ± 0.6	11.4 ± 1.4	3.2 ± 1.0
	<i>Melanostomias niger</i>	1	e	167	167	14	14	-17.3	13.1	3.6
	<i>Stomias boa</i>	18	e	138 ± 41.7	47-202			-17.0 ± 1.4	13.4 ± 0.8	5.3 ± 2.1
Trachichthyidae	<i>Hoplostethus melanopus</i>	7	s	69 ± 7.1	60-80			-16.8 ± 0.5	12.6 ± 0.9	5.6 ± 0.9

nBUS - Winter (SO285)

Baseline – copepod	<i>Nannocalanus minor</i>	3						-20.5 ± 0.2	4.8 ± 0.2	3.8
Bathylagidae	<i>Melanolagus bericoides</i>	6	e	79 ± 8.0	70-91	4 ± 1.0	3-6	-17.6 ± 0.9	12.2 ± 1.2	3.2
Gonostomatidae	<i>Triplophos hemingi</i>	5	e					-17.2 ± 0.2	13.2 ± 0.6	5.8 ± 0.5
Howellidae	<i>Howella sherborni</i>	8	f	50 ± 7.0	43-66	6 ± 0.8	4-7	-19.0 ± 0.5	10.3 ± 0.8	3.5 ± 0.2
Melanocetidae	<i>Melanocetus johnsonii</i>	1	s	45	45	20	20	-17.6	11.3	3.3
Myctophidae	<i>Diaphus cf. dumerilii</i>	1	f	51	51	10	10	-18.0	12.0	3.4
	<i>Diaphus hudsoni</i>	5	f	44 ± 10.8	29-58	8 ± 2.3	5-11	-18.2 ± 0.7	11.2 ± 0.8	3.5 ± 0.2
	<i>Diaphus meadi</i>	5	f	39 ± 2.7	37-43	7 ± 0.9	6-8	-19.1 ± 0.5	11.2 ± 1.6	3.8 ± 0.6
	<i>Diaphus ostenfeldi</i>	2	f	56	56	10 ± 1.1	9-11	-19.4 ± 0.7	11.9 ± 0.1	3.6 ± 0.2
	<i>Diaphus taaningi</i>	3	f	56 ± 5.0	51-61	9 ± 1.0	8-10	-16.8 ± 1.1	11.4 ± 0.35	8.6 ± 1.0
	<i>Electrona risso</i>	2	f	66 ± 9.2	59-72	14 ± 2.8	12-16	-19.0 ± 0.6	13.0 ± 0.7	3.4 ± 1.0
	<i>Lampadena pontifex</i>	1	f	54	54	9	9	-19.0	9.4	3.7
	<i>Lampanyctodes hectoris</i>	5	f	47 ± 3.6	44-53	10 ± 0.7	9-11	-18.3 ± 1.3	12.5 ± 0.5	3.5 ± 0.2
	<i>Lampanyctus australis</i>	11	e	82 ± 17.5	50-111	15 ± 2.9	9-18	-18.3 ± 0.8	11.7 ± 1.1	3.7 ± 0.4
	<i>Scopelopsis multipunctatus</i>	1	f	74	74	11	11	-18.7	10.6	4.9
	<i>Symbolophorus barnardi</i>	1	f	50	50	8	8	-19.1	9.0	3.2
<i>Symbolophorus boops</i>	14	f	38 ± 5.8	30-48	5 ± 0.8	4-7	-18.3 ± 0.5	8.7 ± 0.6	3.3 ± 0.1	
Nemichthyidae	Unidentified species	1	e	591	591	41	41	-18.3	10.6	3.7
Phosichthyidae	<i>Triplophos hemingi</i>	1	e	152	152			-17.2	14.0	5.5
Sternoptychidae	Unidentified species	8	s	31 ± 3.8	28-35	8 ± 1.3	7-9	-19.3 ± 0.2	10.9 ± 0.4	3.4 ± 0.1
	<i>Maurolicus walvisensis</i>	3	f	45 ± 3.1	41-49	6 ± 0.9	5-8	-16.9 ± 0.6	11.7 ± 0.5	3.4 ± 0.1
	<i>Valencienellus tripunctulatus</i>	1	f	22	22			-19.9	12.2	3.3
Stomiidae	<i>Astronesthes</i> sp.	4	e	108 ± 16.9	88-123			-15.9 ± 2.0	11.2	8.0 ± 2.2
	cf. <i>Leptostomias</i>	1	e	155	155	15	15	-18.0	13.4	4.3
	cf. <i>Borostomias</i>	1	e	138	138	23	23	-16.5	11.7	7.9

	<i>Chauliodus</i> sp.	1	e	166	166	20	20	-17.7	11.2	3.2
	<i>Melanostomias niger</i>	2	e	176 ± 3.5	173-178	12	12	-18.8 ± 0.4	10.0 ± 0.3	4 ± 0.4
	<i>Stomias affinis</i>	1	e	98	98	8	8	-17.8	12.5	3.4
	<i>Stomias boa</i>	4	e					-17.8 ± 0.1	12.6 ± 2.7	3.7 ± 0.6
	<i>Stomias lampropeltis</i>	1	e	171	171	16	16	-18.1	11.5	5.1
	<i>Stomias</i> spp.	6	e	121 ± 30.4	83-160	11 ± 2.6	7-16	-17.9 ± 0.4	13.0 ± 0.9	4.1 ± 1.2
Trichiuridae	<i>Lepidopus caudatus</i>	1	e	1545	1545	74	74	-17.1	13.1	3.5
sBUS - Summer (M153)										
Baseline - copepod	<i>Nannocalanus minor</i>	7						-18.8 ± 0.7	8.1 ± 0.3	4.2 ± 0.2
Bathylagidae	<i>Melanolagus bericoides</i>	1	e	57	57	6	6	-20.3	9.2	3.3
	<i>Melanolagus</i> sp.	1	e	154	154	5	5	-19.6	11.7	3.6
Gonostomatidae	<i>Cyclothone braueri</i>	1	e	22	22			-19.8	9.6	3.8
	<i>Cyclothone</i> sp.	2	e	19 ± 1.1	19-20			-18.0 ± 0.4	13.2 ± 0.5	4.2 ± 0.1
	<i>Gonostoma denudatum</i>	1	e	105	105	18	18	-19.6	11.2	3.4
Myctophidae	<i>Diaphus diadematus</i>	2	f	27 ± 5.3	23-31	6 ± 0.4	6	-20.0 ± 0.1	10.8 ± 0.3	4.2 ± 0.1
	<i>Diaphus hudsoni</i>	5	f	54 ± 6.4	43-58			-18.9 ± 0.3	13.0 ± 1.0	3.3 ± 0.1
	<i>Diaphus meadi</i>	14	f	51 ± 13.4	31-73	9 ± 0.2	6	-19.0 ± 0.5	12.1 ± 0.7	3.4 ± 0.3
	<i>Diaphus ostentfeldi</i>	2	f	43 ± 29.0	22-63	7 ± 4.9	4-11	-18.2 ± 2.1	12.3 ± 0.0	6.3 ± 2.6
	<i>Lampanyctodes hectoris</i>	5	f	49 ± 12.4	31-65	9 ± 1.7	6-10	-17.9 ± 1.1	13.3 ± 0.6	4.4 ± 1.5
	<i>Lobianchia dofleini</i>	1	f	26	26			-20.1	13.4	4
Paralepididae	Paralepididae (juvenile)	3	e	102 ± 10.9	94-114	12 ± 1.5	11-14	-19.5 ± 0.0	11.5 ± 0.2	3.3
Phosichthyidae	<i>Vinciguerrria attenuata</i>	4	f	21 ± 2.4	18-23	3 ± 0.5	3-4	-19.6 ± 0.5	12.3 ± 0.3	3.5 ± 0.1
	<i>Vinciguerrria poweraii</i>	1	f	32	32	6	6	-19.2	11.3	3.5
Sternoptychidae	<i>Argyropelecus hemigymnus</i>	7	s	24 ± 3.5	18-28			-19.3 ± 0.1	11.7 ± 0.4	3.5 ± 0.0
	<i>Mauroliticus walvisensis</i>	23	f	42 ± 6.1	31-53	6 ± 1.0	5-9	-17.2 ± 0.7	13.4 ± 0.5	4.7 ± 1.4

	<i>Valencienellus tripunctulatus</i>	10	f	29 ± 2.8	25-33			-19.7 ± 0.4	11.7 ± 0.8	3.4 ± 0.1
Stomiidae	<i>Chauliodus sloani</i>	3	e	69 ± 44.4	32-118	7 ± 4.2	4-12	-20.0 ± 0.7	9.9 ± 1.7	3.3 ± 0.1
	<i>Chauliodus</i> sp.	2	e	187 ± 7.1	182-192	15 ± 7.1	10-20	-18.7 ± 0.4	12.3 ± 0.4	3.3 ± 0.1
	<i>Melanostomias niger</i>	1	e	223	223			-17.6	11.8	3.1
	<i>Stomias longibarbatatus</i>	1	e	263	263	15	15	-19.2	12.4	4.1
sBUS - Winter (SO285)										
Baseline - copepod	<i>Nannocalanus minor</i>	6						-21.9 ± 0.2	4.6 ± 0.4	3.9 ± 0.3
Bathylagidae	<i>Melanolagus bericoides</i>	3	e	78 ± 21.0	63-102	3 ± 1.2	2-4	-21.2 ± 0.2	8.9 ± 1.4	3.5 ± 0.5
Gonostomatidae	<i>Gonostoma denudatum</i>	1	e	172	172	25	25	-19.3	13.5	4.4
Melamphaidae	<i>Poromitra megalops</i>	3	s	46 ± 5.8	43-53	7 ± 2.0	5-9	-19.1 ± 0.3	13.8 ± 0.7	3.2
Myctophidae	<i>Ceratoscopelus warmingii</i>	2	f	51 ± 3.5	48-53	9 ± 2.1	7	-21.8 ± 0.9	7.0 ± 0.8	5.1 ± 0.9
	<i>Diaphus diadematus</i>	1	f	34	34	8	8	-23.1	7.7	5.2
	<i>Diaphus hudsoni</i>	5	f	46 ± 12.6	31-57	9 ± 3.3	5-12	-20.1 ± 0.9	10.9 ± 1.9	3.6 ± 0.4
	<i>Diaphus meadi</i>	7	f	42 ± 6.2	31-50	9 ± 3.8	6-17	-20.5 ± 0.5	10.7 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 0.2
	<i>Diaphus mollis</i>	4	f	52 ± 11.2	43-68	9 ± 1.7	7-10	-20.8 ± 0.3	9.0 ± 0.9	3.6 ± 0.2
	<i>Lampanyctodes hectoris</i>	1	f	51	51	10	10	-18.2	12.8	3.6
	<i>Lampanyctus australis</i>	4	e	90 ± 19.8	70-113	14 ± 2.2	12-17	-19.8 ± 0.5	10.5 ± 0.8	3.3 ± 0.1
	<i>Lampanyctus pusillus</i>	1	e	51	51			-19.9	9.7	3.3
	<i>Notoscopelus resplendens</i>	1	f	31	31	5	5	-21.1	7.5	3.3
Paralepididae	Paralepididae (juvenile)	1	e	83	83	7	7	-21.4	7.1	3.4
Phosichthyidae	<i>Phosichthys argenteus</i>	7	e	179 ± 25.9	140-223			-18.7 ± 0.5	12.7 ± 0.7	3.2 ± 0.1
Sternoptychidae	<i>Argyropelecus hemigymnus</i>	5	s	30 ± 4.3	27-37	6 ± 1.6	4-8	-19.7 ± 0.3	12.0 ± 1.3	3.38 ± 0.1
	<i>Argyropelecus</i> sp.	4	s					-20.0 ± 0.4	11.0 ± 2.1	3.4
	<i>Mauroliticus walvisensis</i>	7	f	39 ± 5.8	32-49			-18.3 ± 0.4	12.6 ± 0.5	3.4 ± 0.1
Stomiidae	<i>Neonesthes microcephalus</i>	2	e	108 ± 23.3	91-124	14 ± 3.2	12-16	-20.0 ± 0.6	13.6 ± 0.2	4.6 ± 1.7

Table S4. Mean and median $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values for mesopelagic fish communities in the northern (nBUS) and southern (sBUS) Benguela Subsystems with standard deviation of the mean (SD) and interquartile range (IQR) of the median.

Community	Sample size	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$
		Mean \pm SD	Median \pm IQR	Mean \pm SD	Median \pm IQR
nBUS – Summer	132	-17.8 \pm 0.9	-17.9 \pm 1.0	12.6 \pm 1.4	12.7 \pm 1.7
sBUS – Summer	90	-18.7 \pm 1.1	-19.0 \pm 1.5	12.0 \pm 1.6	12.3 \pm 1.8
nBUS – Winter	107	-18.1 \pm 1.1	-18.1 \pm 1.6	11.2 \pm 1.9	11.5 \pm 2.5
sBUS – Winter	59	-20.0 \pm 1.3	-20.0 \pm 1.8	10.5 \pm 2.7	10.9 \pm 2.8

Table S5. Mean $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and trophic position (TP) for mesopelagic fishes, within each feeding guild and season in the northern (nBUS) and southern (sBUS) Benguela subsystems including standard deviation (SD) of the means. Mean is average of all individuals within a feeding guild, season, and subsystem.

Subsystem	Cruise	Season	Guild	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Mean}}$	$\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{Mean}}$	TP_{Mean}	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{SD}}$	$\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{SD}}$	TP_{SD}
nBUS	M153	Summer	zp-m	-18.0	12.8	3.4	0.8	1.2	0.4
nBUS	M153	Summer	zp-nm	-18.0	12.3	3.2	0.5	1.3	0.4
nBUS	M153	Summer	pisc-m	-17.2	12.8	3.4	1.3	1.3	0.4
nBUS	M153	Summer	pisc-nm	-17.3	12.6	3.3	0.9	0.9	0.3
nBUS	M153	Summer	baseline	-18.4	8.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	0.0
nBUS	SO285	Summer	zp-m	-18.3	10.7	3.8	1.0	1.5	0.5
nBUS	SO285	Summer	zp-nm	-17.9	12.3	4.2	1.0	1.1	0.3
nBUS	SO285	Summer	pisc-m	-17.6	12.3	4.2	1.2	1.4	0.4
nBUS	SO285	Summer	pisc-nm	-17.1	11.5	4.0	0.8	0.3	0.1
nBUS	SO285	Summer	baseline	-20.5	4.8	2.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
sBUS	M153	Winter	zp-m	-18.4	12.6	3.3	1.2	1.2	0.4
sBUS	M153	Winter	zp-nm	-19.3	11.9	3.1	0.8	1.1	0.3
sBUS	M153	Winter	pisc-m	-18.7	12.1	3.2	0.7	0.4	0.1
sBUS	M153	Winter	baseline	-18.8	8.1	2.0	0.7	0.3	0.0
sBUS	SO285	Winter	zp-m	-20.0	10.4	3.7	1.4	2.0	0.6
sBUS	SO285	Winter	zp-nm	-20.0	11.3	4.0	0.8	2.0	0.6
sBUS	SO285	Winter	pisc-nm	-19.0	12.9	4.4	0.7	0.7	0.2
sBUS	SO285	Winter	baseline	-21.9	4.6	2.0	0.2	0.4	0.0

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