

# Seasonal Distribution and Some Features of the Biology of Spiny Lumpfish *Eumicrotremus asperrimus* (Cyclopteridae, Scorpaeniformes) in the Northwestern Part of the Sea of Japan

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**Abstract**—According to data of 1981–2007, it was shown that the migration of spiny lumpfish *Eumicrotremus asperrimus* from wintering grounds to the coast begins in spring, with the onset of water warming. During summer and autumn, *E. asperrimus* feeds, concentrating in the bathymetric range of 100–300 m. With the start of winter water cooling, it migrates for wintering to depths larger than 500 m. Main aggregations of *E. asperrimus* were found off the coasts of Northern Primorye. Catches included specimens with a length of 3–16 cm; however, the overwhelming majority (95%) had a length of 5–10 cm, with the domination of two size groups: 6–7 and 9 cm. The spawning of *E. asperrimus* is apparently highly extended in time and occurs in the spring–summer period in shallow waters. Similarly to other representatives of the genus *Eumicrotremus*, *E. asperrimus* is a planktonphage with a narrow food specialization. Off the coasts of Primorye, in the summer period it feeds almost on one species—hyperiid *Themisto japonica*—with a value of diurnal diet averaging 6.7% of the body weight. According to an expert estimate, the biomass of *E. asperrimus* in the northwestern part of the Sea of Japan may comprise no less than 5000 t.

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