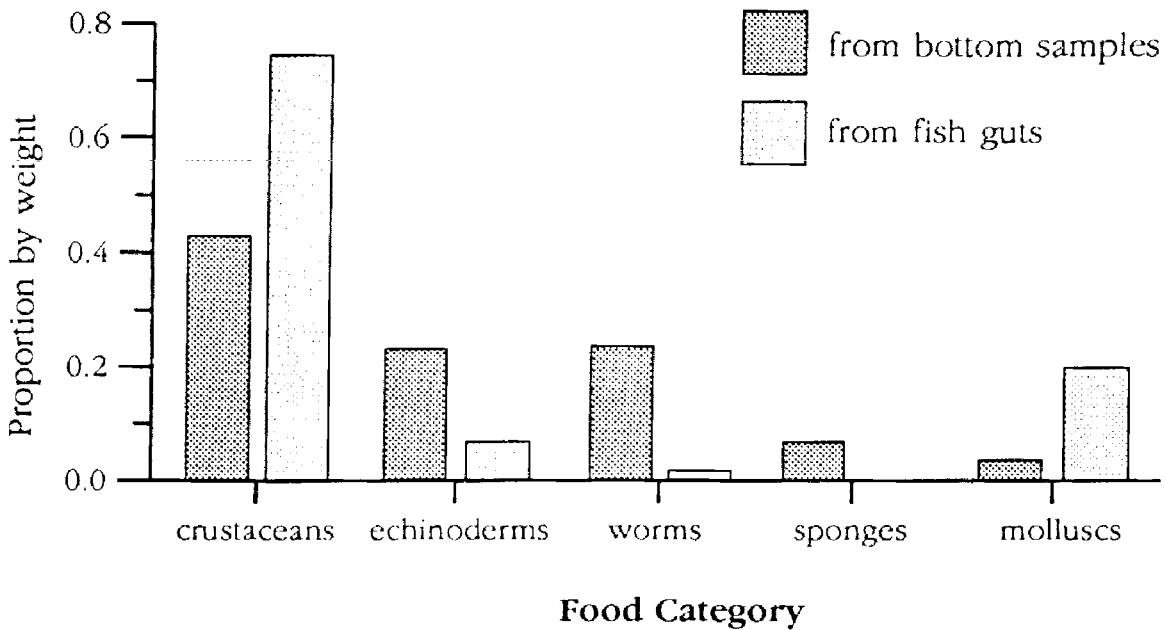


**Source:** This activity is adapted from Coral Reefs: A Gallery Program produced at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland. Used with permission.

### 39\*. FEEDING FRENZY

The graph below shows the results of samples taken from the stomachs of patch reef fish and from the floor of the reef itself. Use the graph to answer the following questions:

1. Which prey items are most abundant?
2. Which prey items are eaten the most?
3. According to these results, do you think that the reef fish studied rely on worms as a primary food source?
4. What other factors might have affected these results?



**Figure 1** Comparison between weight of prey consumed (from all fish guts) and the composition by weight of prey (from patch reef habitats), for a fish assemblage from the northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Data are from Parrish et al. (1985).

<sup>s</sup>Peter F. Sale, *The Ecology of Fishes on Coral Reefs*. San Diego, CA: Academic Press, 1991, p. 161.

**Correlation to National Standards from McREL ( <http://www.mcrel.org> ) :**

Life Sciences

6. Understands relationships among organisms and their physical environment