



PIRFO

Purse-seine fish ID cards

for Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observers



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

These identification cards are produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to help with the identification of fish species encountered by Fisheries Observers while onboard commercial tuna purse seiners that fish in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The species included in these cards are the ones commonly recorded by observers on tuna purse seine vessels operating in the WCPO. The cards can be easily accessed by observers while working on deck during net hauling and brailing operations to verify and correctly identify fish species. The cards also assist in training observers operating within the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area.

Printing of these cards was made possible through financial assistance provided by Japan Trust Fund.

Project co-ordinated by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme Fisheries Monitoring Section and the Fisheries Information Section, SPC. Colour illustrations by Hazel Adams (p. 8, 9, 25, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38), Les Hata (p. 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34), Jipé Le-Bars (p. 5, 6) and Rachel O'Shea (p. 18, 19); black and white illustrations courtesy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This publication is based on the *Marine species identification manual for horizontal longline fishermen* by Chapman et al. (2006).

Secretariat of the Pacific Community Cataloguing-in-publication data

Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observers (PIRFO) Purse-seine fish ID cards / Secretariat of the Pacific Community

1. Fishes – Identification – Oceania.
2. Purse seining – Oceania.
3. Marine fishes – Classification – Oceania.
4. Fishery management – Oceania.

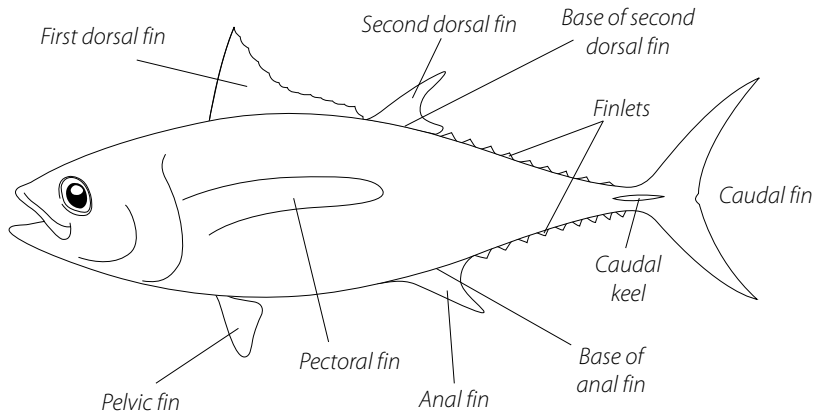
I. Title II. Secretariat of the Pacific Community

597.0995

ISBN: 978-982-00-0748-2

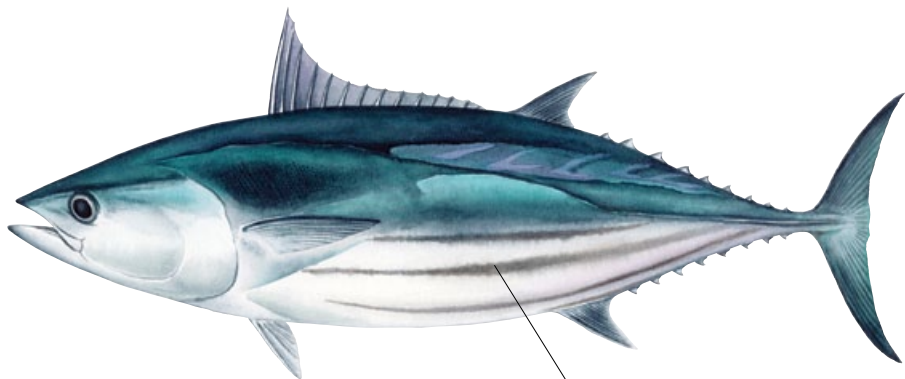
AACR2

Tunas



Skipjack tuna

Katsuwonus pelamis

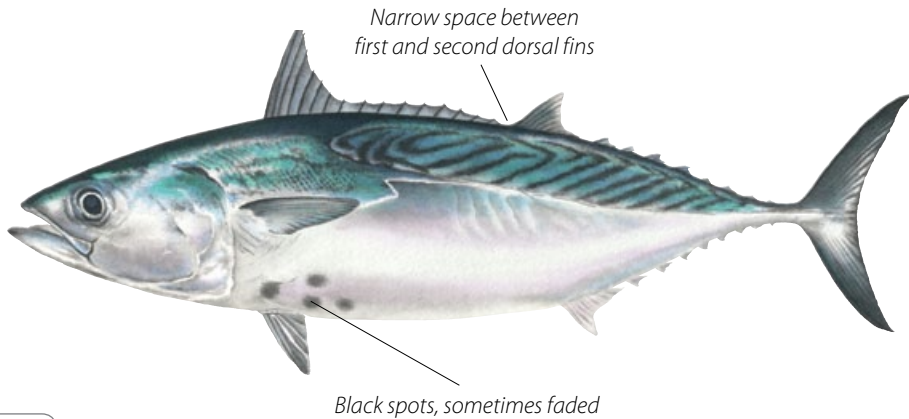


Three to five stripes along belly

SKJ

Kawakawa

Euthynnus affinis



Yellowfin tuna

Thunnus albacares

Juveniles
(40–70 cm)

Pectoral fins blade-like

< 120 cm

Narrow body,
especially
near caudal fin

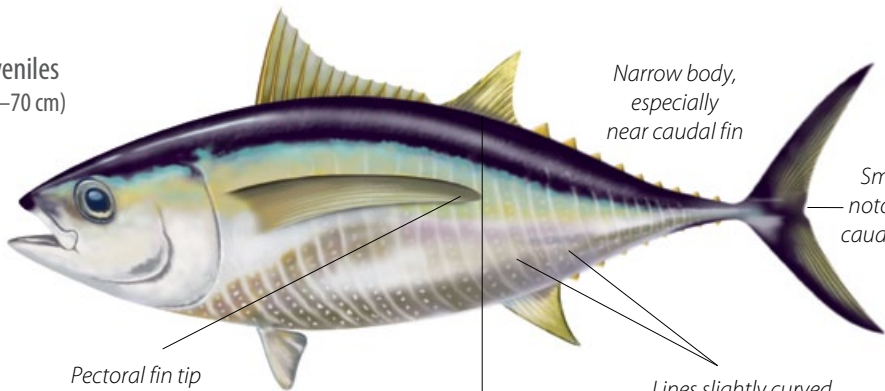
Small
notch in
caudal fin

Pectoral fin tip
rounded

Pectoral fin
reaches base of
second dorsal fin

Lines slightly curved,
evenly spaced,
separated by lines
of spots over most of body

YFT



Bigeye tuna

Thunnus obesus



Juveniles
(40–70 cm)

Stout body

No
— notch in
caudal fin

Pectoral fin tip
pointed

Pectoral fin often
extends beyond base
of second dorsal fin

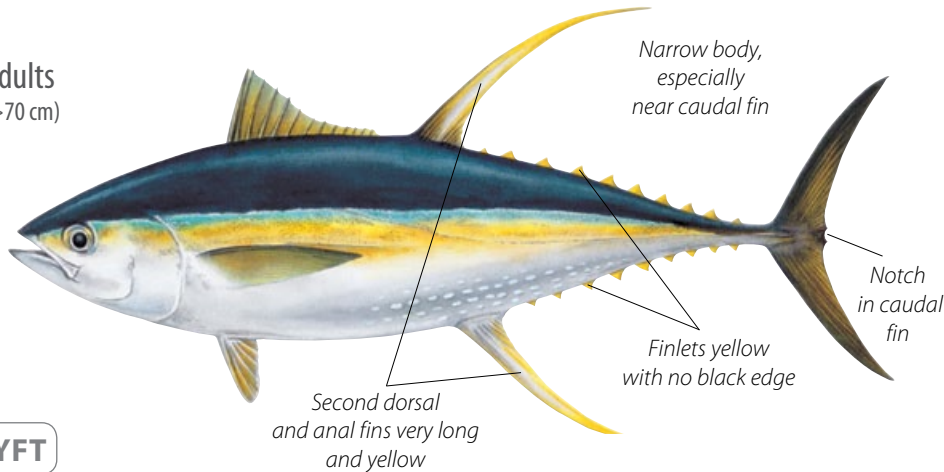
Lines almost straight,
unevenly spaced with
a few erratic spots mostly
over lower body

BET

Yellowfin tuna

Thunnus albacares

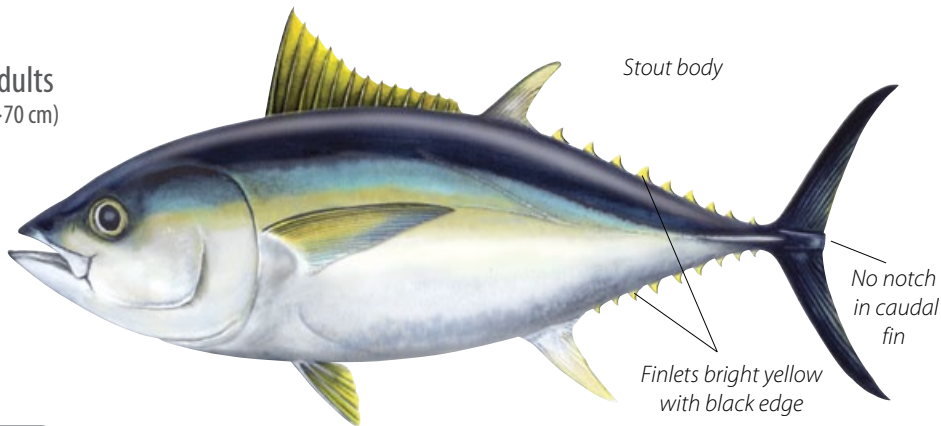
Adults
(>70 cm)



Bigeye tuna

Thunnus obesus

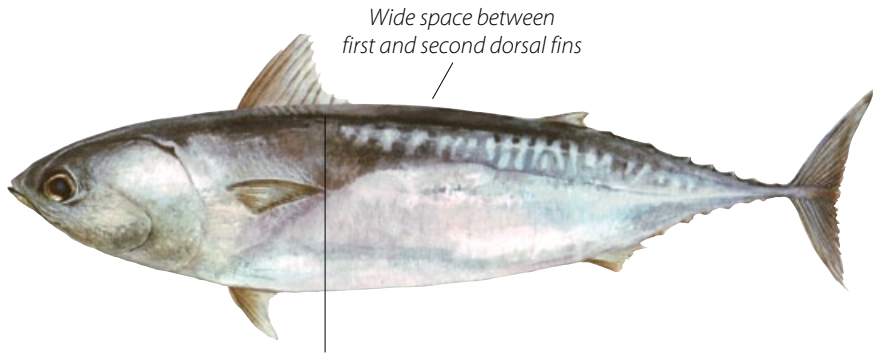
Adults
(>70 cm)



BET

Bullet tuna

Auxis rochei rochei



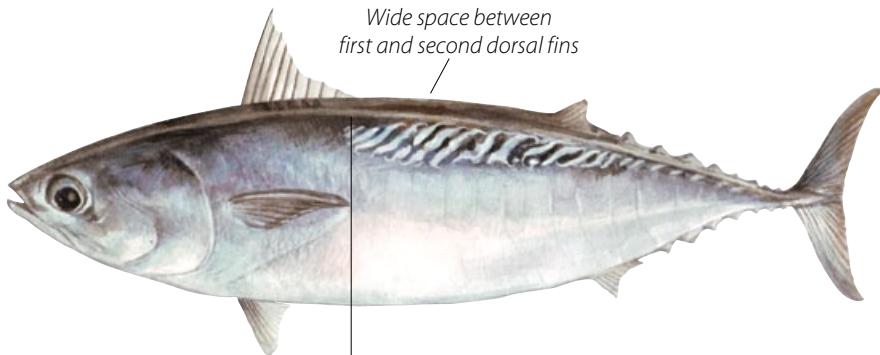
Wide space between
first and second dorsal fins

Pectoral fin tip does not reach
front edge of patterned area

BLT

Frigate tuna

Auxis thazard thazard



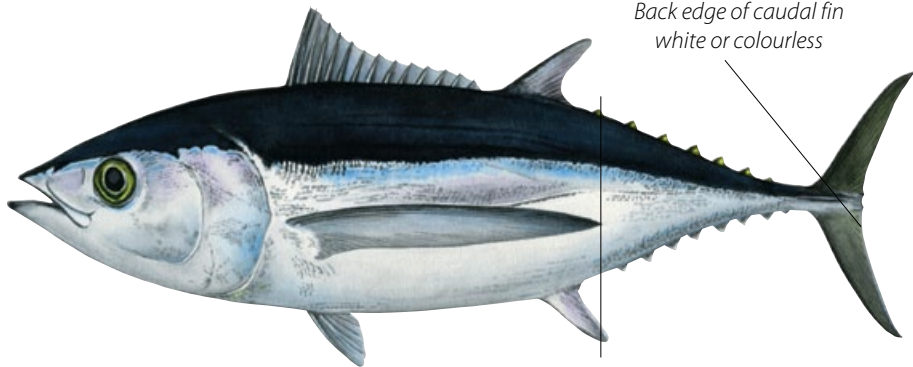
Wide space between
first and second dorsal fins

Pectoral fin tip reaches beyond
front edge of patterned area

FRI

Albacore tuna

Thunnus alalunga

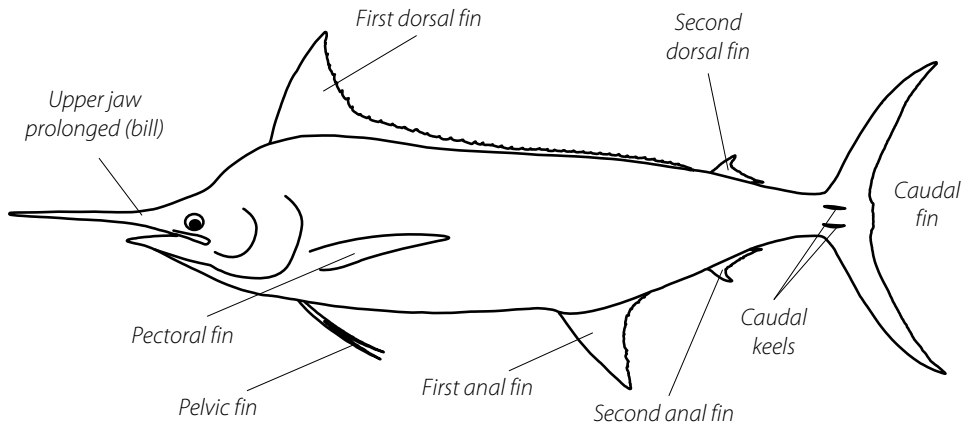


Back edge of caudal fin
white or colourless

Pectoral fin reaches way past base
of second dorsal and anal fins

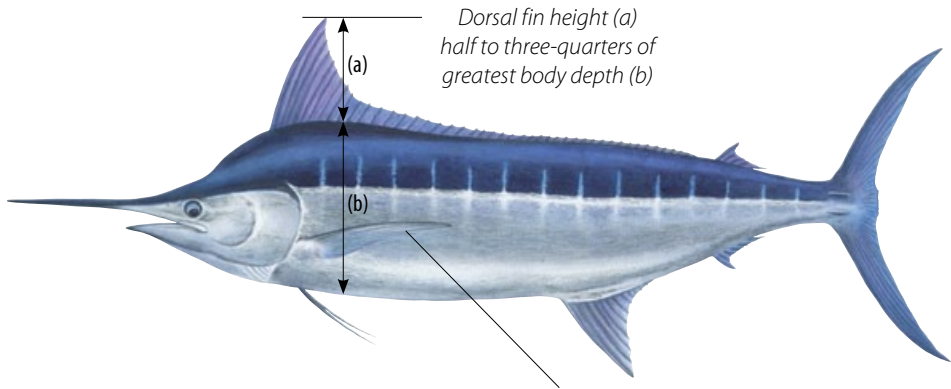
ALB

Billfish



Blue marlin

Makaira nigricans

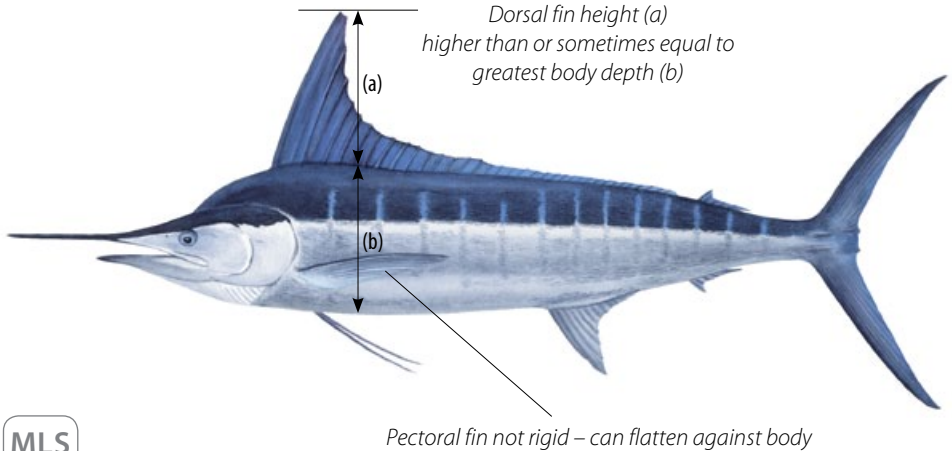


Dorsal fin height (a)
half to three-quarters of
greatest body depth (b)

Pectoral fin not rigid – can flatten against body

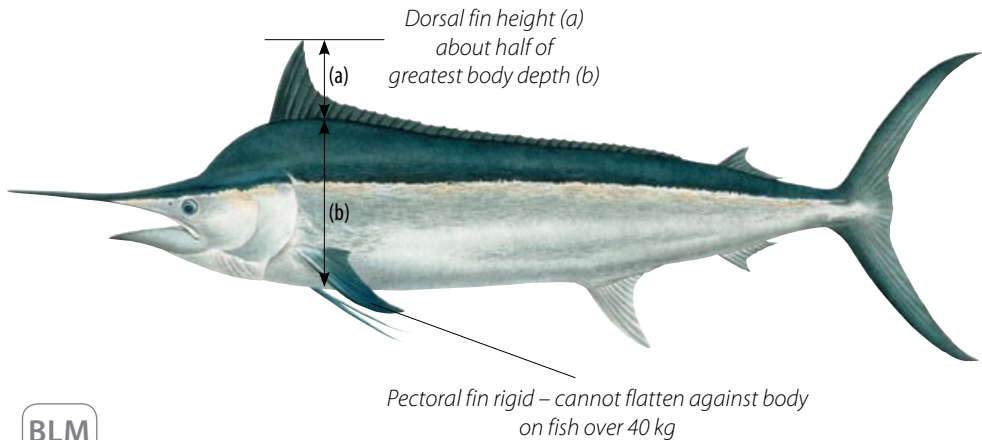
Striped marlin

Tetrapturus audax

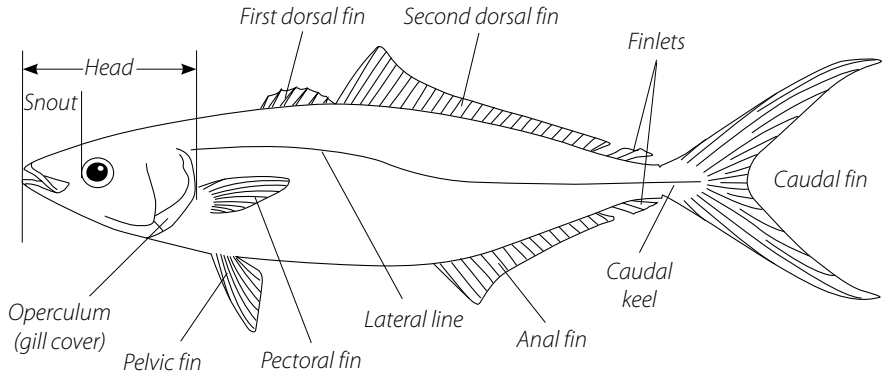


Black marlin

Makaira indica

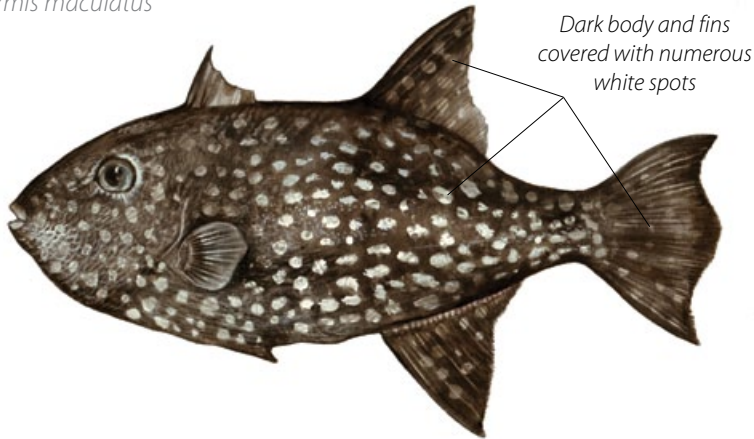


Other pelagics



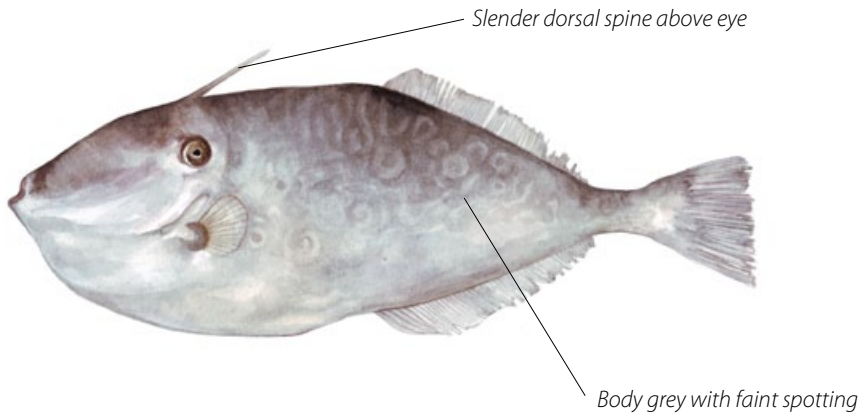
Spotted oceanic triggerfish (Rough triggerfish)

Canthidermis maculatus



Unicorn leatherjacket filefish

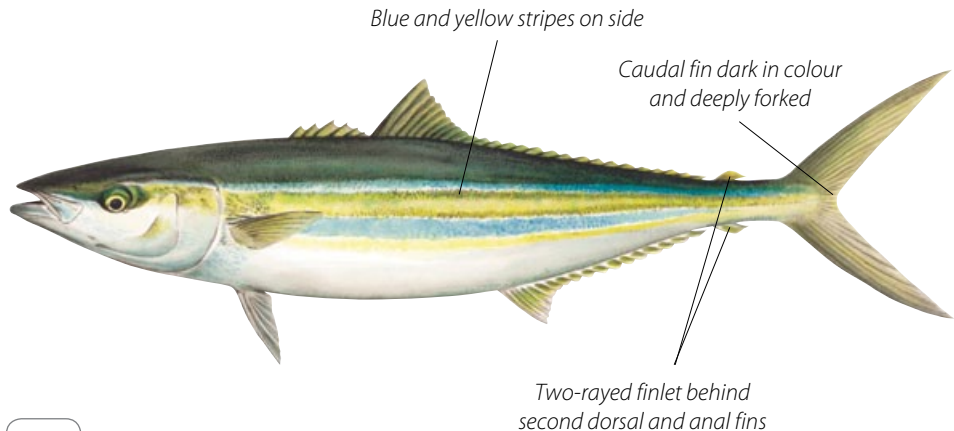
Aluterus monoceros



ALM

Rainbow runner

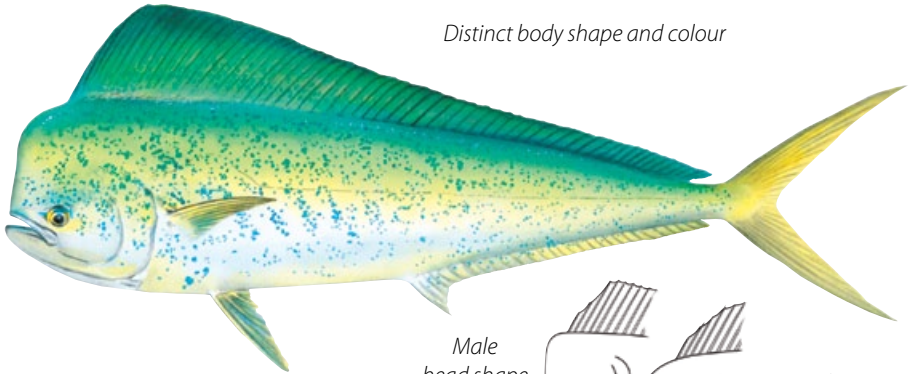
Elagatis bipinnulata



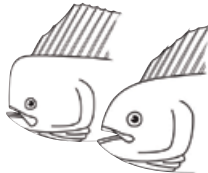
Mahi mahi

Coryphaena hippurus

Distinct body shape and colour



*Male
head shape*

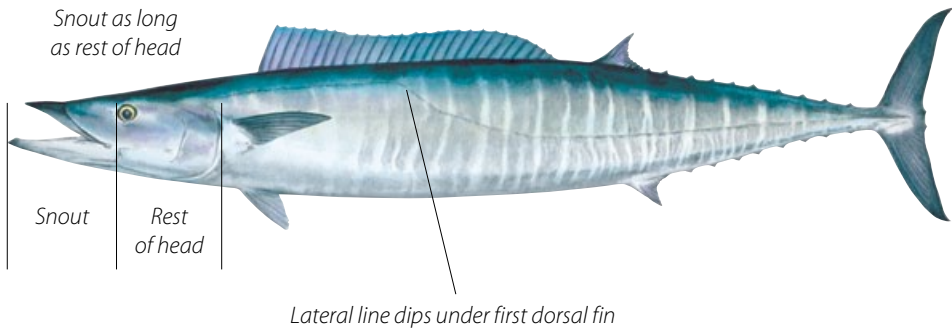


*Female
head shape*

DOL

Wahoo

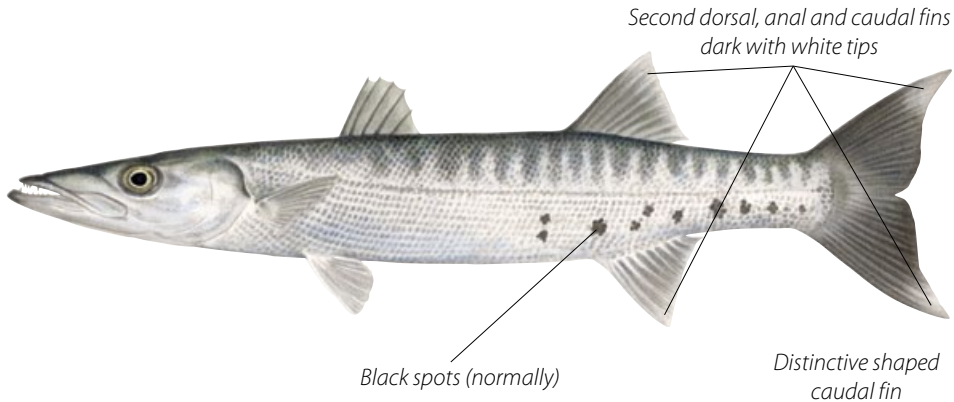
Acanthocybium solandri



WAH

Great barracuda

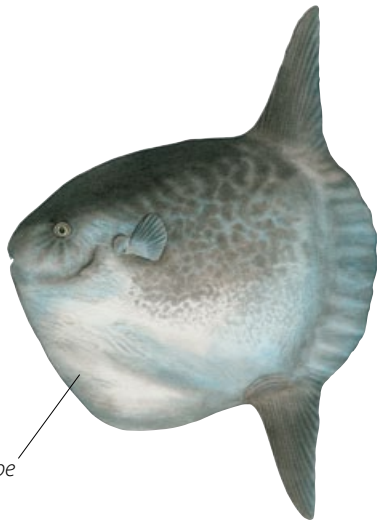
Sphyraena barracuda



GBA

Ocean sunfish

Mola mola



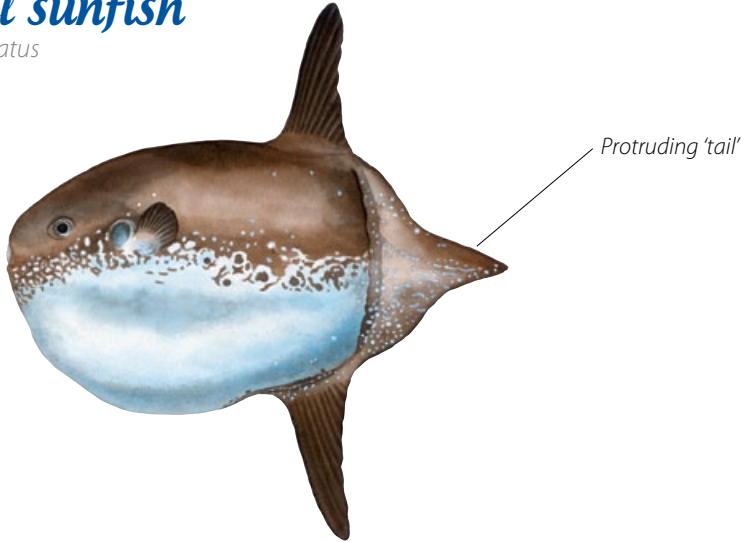
No protruding 'tail'

Oval body shape

MOX

Sharptail sunfish

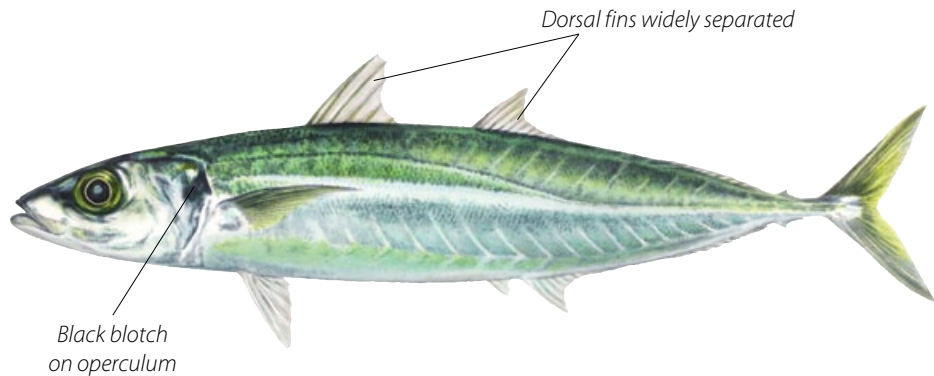
Masturus lanceolatus



MRW

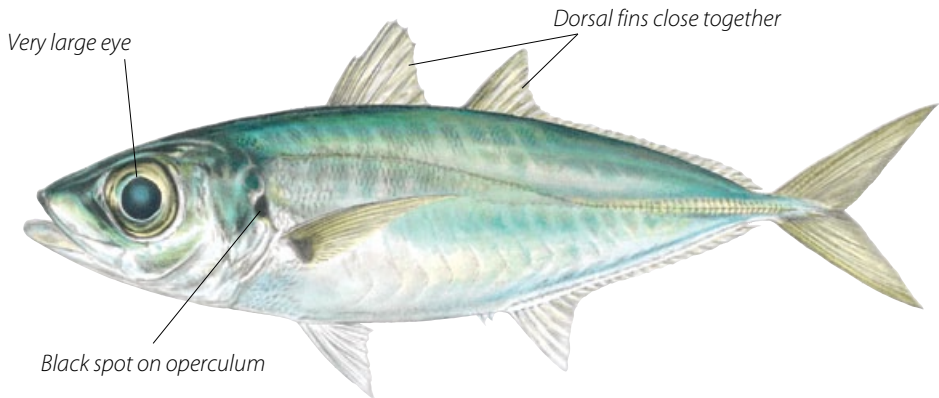
Mackerel scad

Decapterus macarellus



Bigeye scad

Selar crumenophthalmus



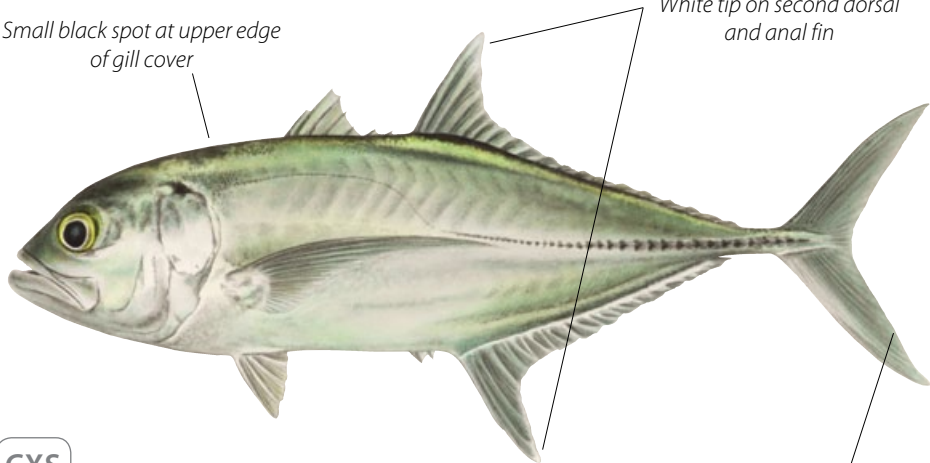
BIS

Bigeye trevally

Caranx sexfasciatus

Small black spot at upper edge
of gill cover

White tip on second dorsal
and anal fin

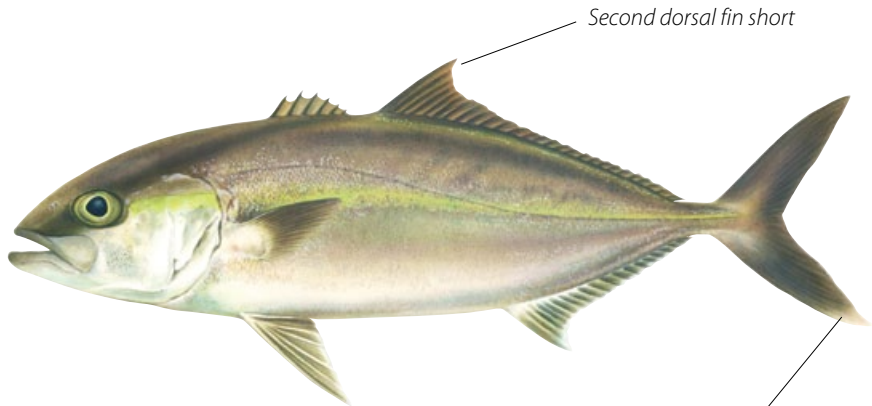


CXS

Black margin on caudal fin

Greater amberjack

Seriola dumerili



AMB

Golden trevally

Gnathanodon speciosus



Dark tips on tail

GLT

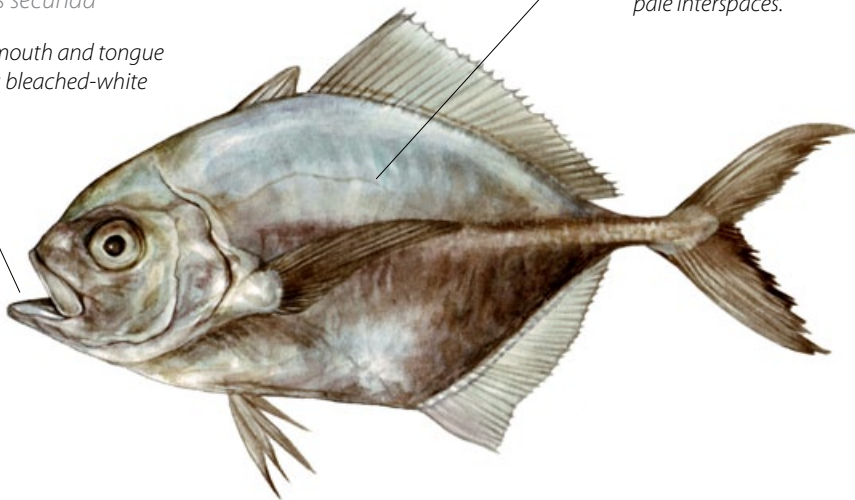
Juveniles bright yellow with 7-11 black bars.
Adults silver with golden belly.

Cottonmouth jack

Uraspis secunda

Inside of mouth and tongue
appears bleached-white

Adults dark to bluish black.
Juveniles with 6-7 dark bands with
pale interspaces.

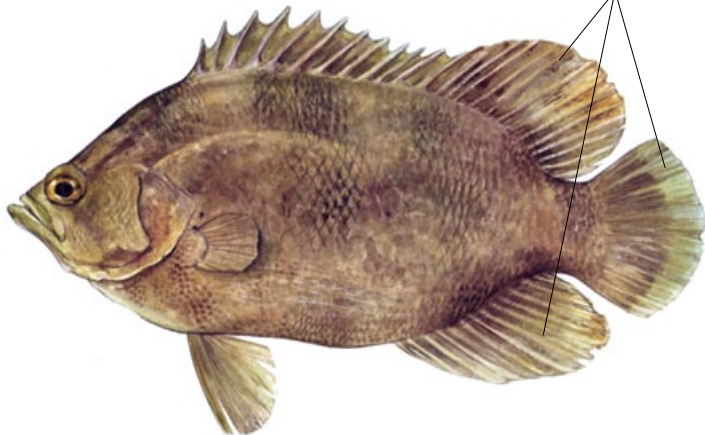


USE

Triple tail

Lobotes surinamensis

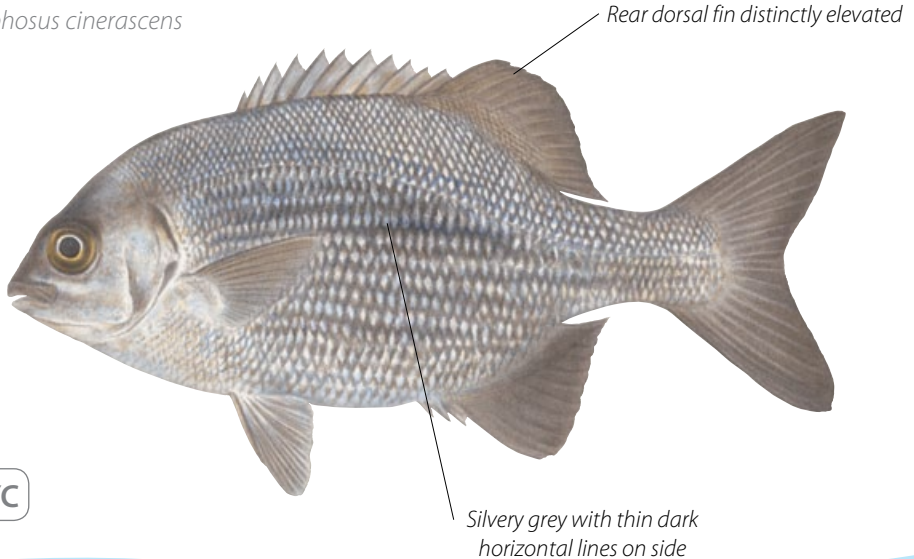
Large, rounded posterior lobes of dorsal and anal fins that are equal to caudal fin in size.



LOB

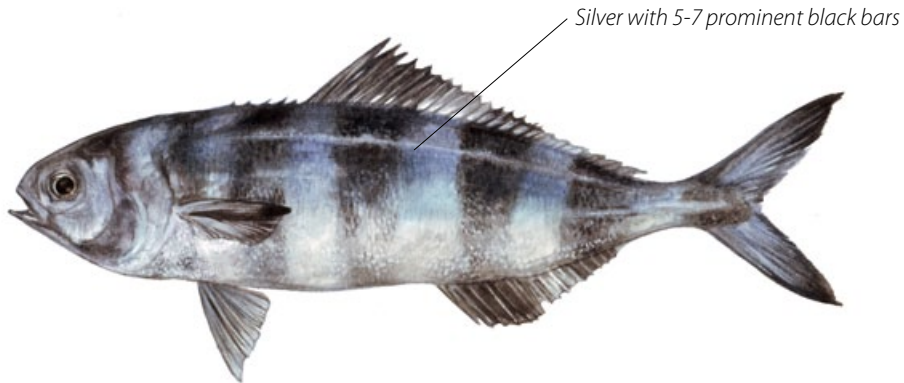
Blue sea chub

Kyphosus cinerascens



Pilotfish

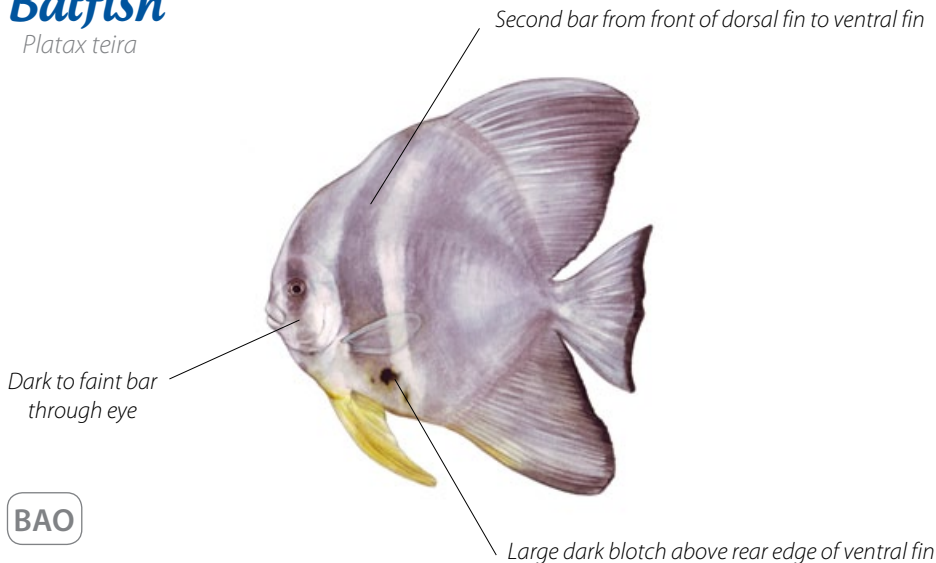
Naucrates ductor



NAU

Batfish

Platax teira



BAO

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For sharks and rays, please refer to the set of cards
 'Shark and ray identification in tropical offshore fisheries' produced by SPC.



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Secretariat
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Community



European Union

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

BP D5 • 98848 NOUMEA CEDEX • NEW CALEDONIA

Telephone: +687 26 20 00

Facsimile: +687 26 38 18

Email: cfpinfo@spc.int

<http://www.spc.int/fame>

Funding provided by the Japan Trust Fund of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
Prepared for publication at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia, 2014
and printed in New Zealand by Stredder Print Ltd.