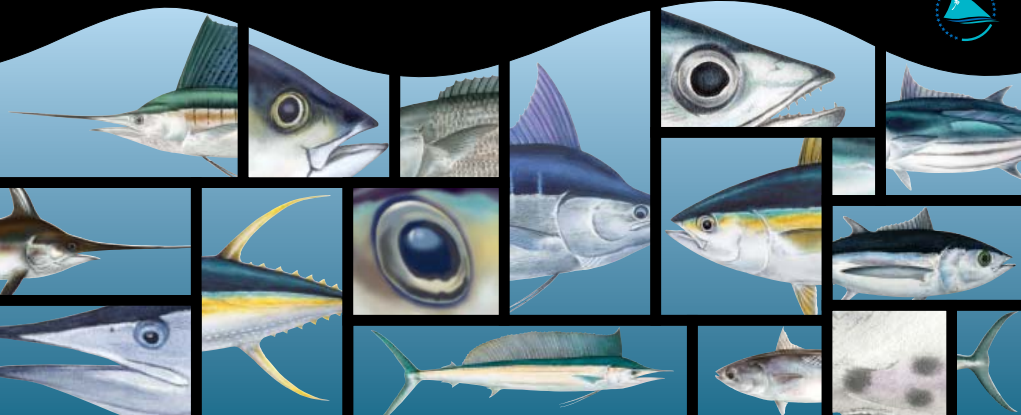


# *Offshore fish identification cards for small-scale fishermen*



These identification cards are produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to help improve catch data and statistics from small-scale vessels that regularly target pelagic species. With a better understanding of small-scale vessel catches, regional fisheries managers can ensure that migratory stocks are better managed throughout the range of the stocks and that small-scale fishers get more recognition and support for their contribution to food security and employment at the local community level. The most likely users of these cards are small-scale fishers who actively target pelagic stocks, along with fishery officers who are tasked with monitoring these fisheries. Fisheries training institutions and fishing communities are other potential users.

**Printing of these cards was made possible through financial assistance provided by AusAID.**

Project co-ordination done by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme Fisheries Monitoring Section and the Fisheries Information Section, SPC. Colour illustrations by Jipé Le-Bars (juvenile tunas), Hazel Adams (bullet tuna, frigate tuna and rough triggerfish), Rachel O'Shea (yellowtail amberjack) and Les Hata (all others); 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

Offshore fish identification cards for small-scale fishermen / produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

1. Marine fishes – Classification – Oceania
2. Fishery management – Oceania

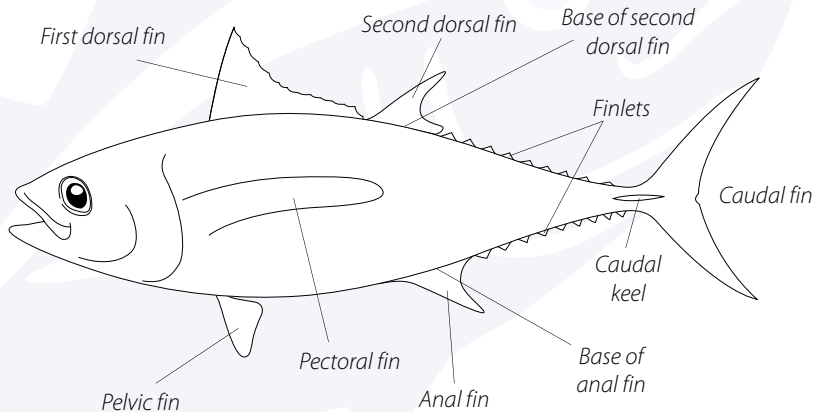
I. Title II. Secretariat of the Pacific Community

338.3720995

ISBN: 978-982-00-0595-2

AACR2

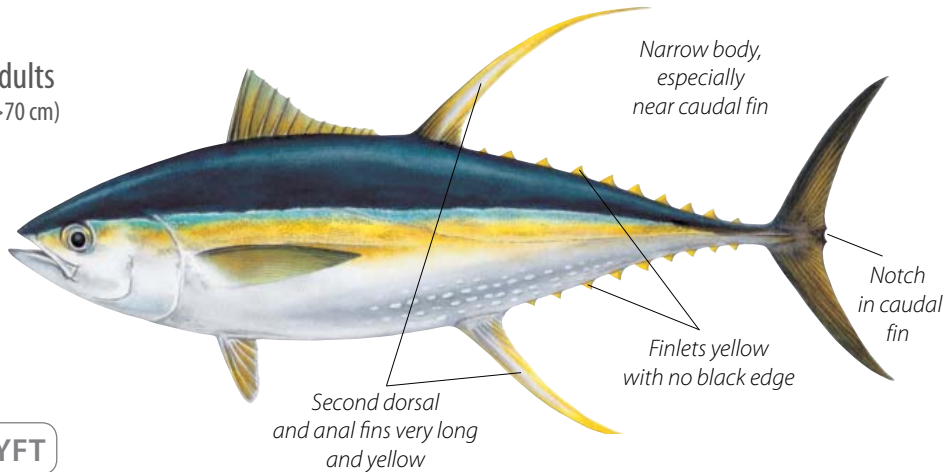
# Tunas



# Yellowfin tuna

*Thunnus albacares*

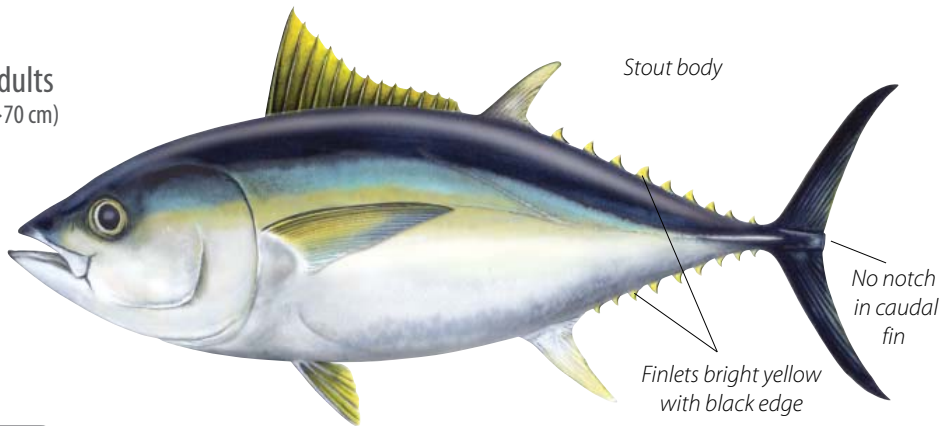
Adults  
(>70 cm)



# Bigeye tuna

*Thunnus obesus*

Adults  
(>70 cm)



BET

# Yellowfin tuna

*Thunnus albacares*

Juveniles  
(40–70 cm)

Narrow body,  
especially  
near caudal fin

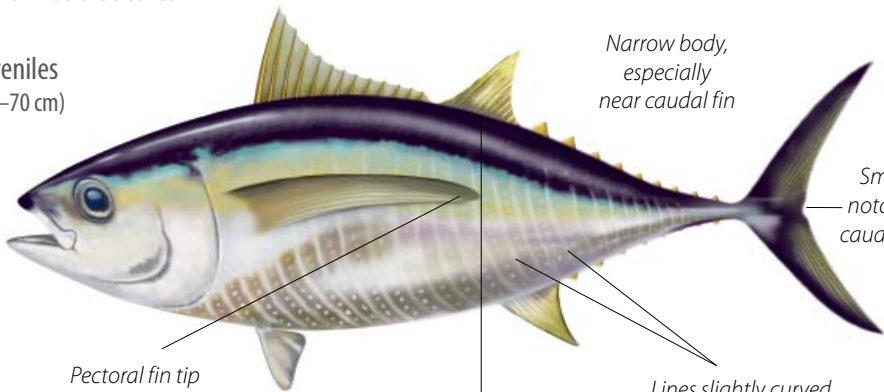
Small  
notch in  
caudal fin

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

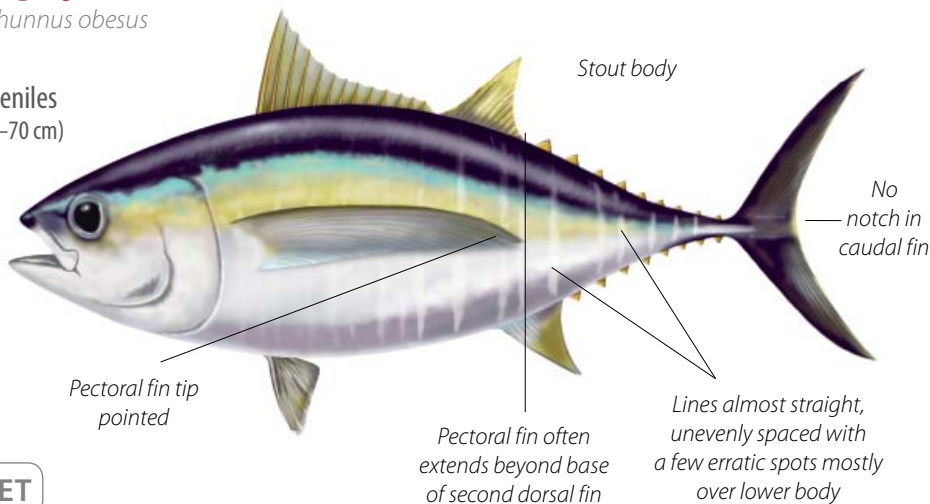
YFT



# Bigeye tuna

*Thunnus obesus*

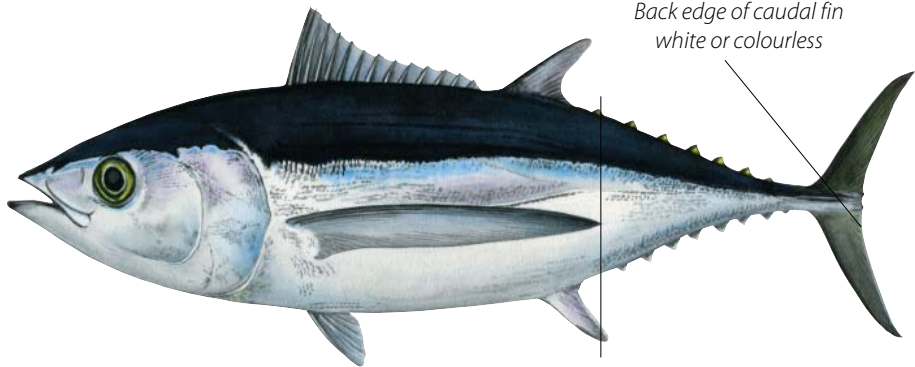
Juveniles  
(40–70 cm)



BET

# Albacore tuna

*Thunnus alalunga*



*Back edge of caudal fin  
white or colourless*

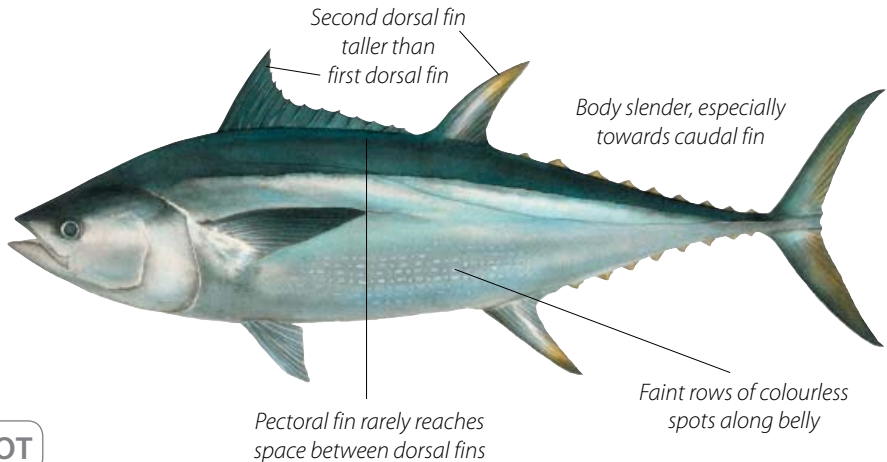
*Pectoral fin reaches way past base  
of second dorsal and anal fins*

ALB



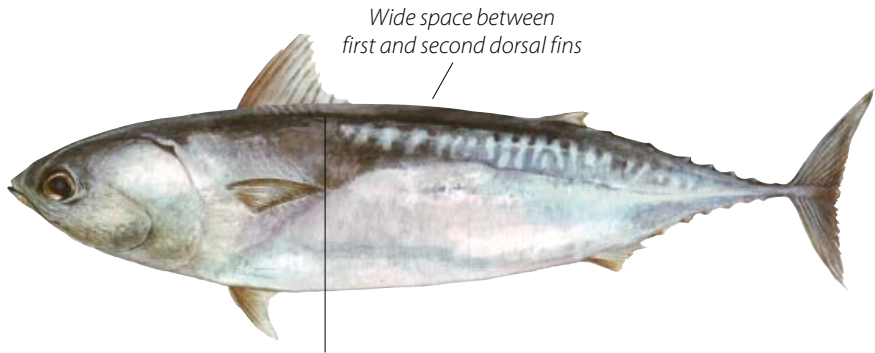
# Longtail tuna

*Thunnus tonggol*



# Bullet tuna

*Auxis rochei rochei*



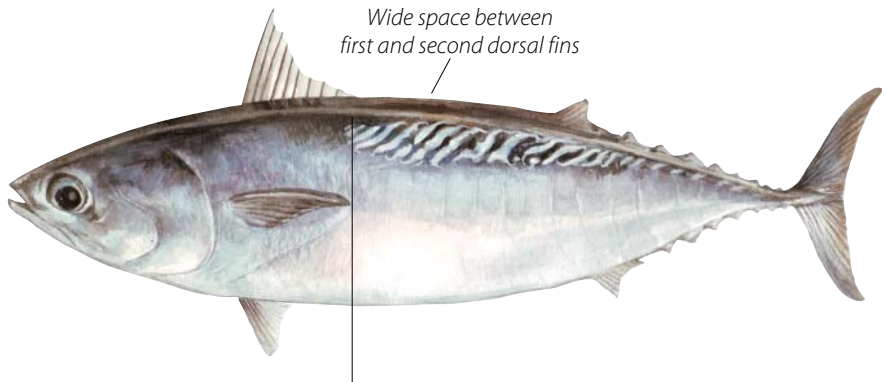
Wide space between  
first and second dorsal fins

Pectoral fin tip does not reach  
front edge of patterned area

BLT

# *Frigate tuna*

*Auxis thazard thazard*



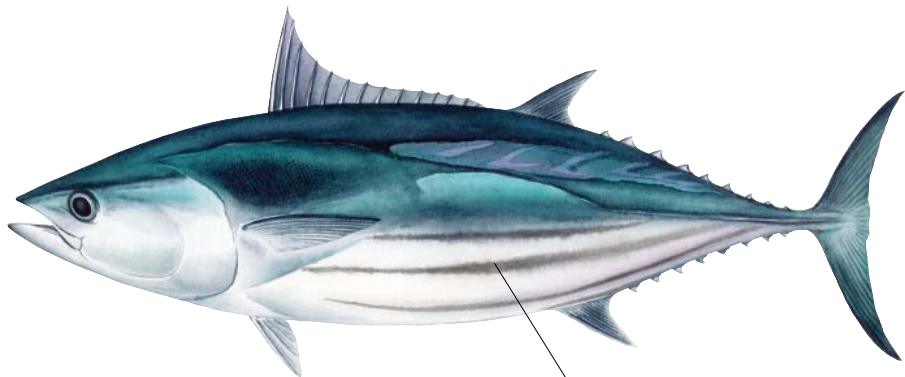
Wide space between  
first and second dorsal fins

Pectoral fin tip reaches beyond  
front edge of patterned area

FRI

# *Skipjack tuna*

*Katsuwonus pelamis*

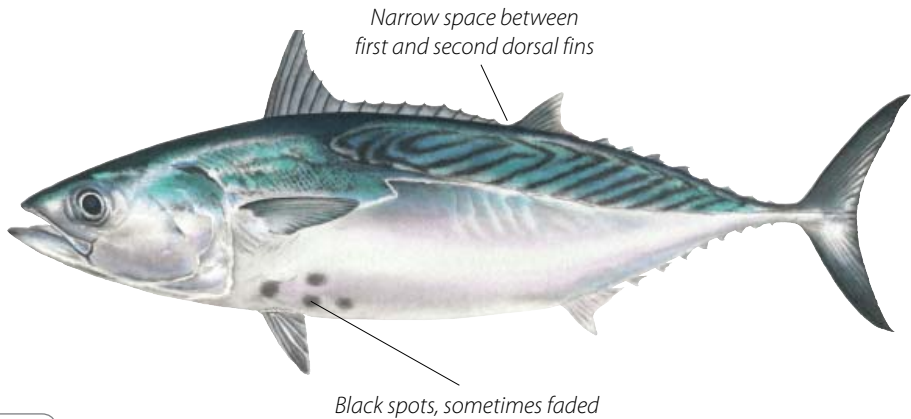


*Three to five stripes along belly*

SKJ

# *Kawakawa*

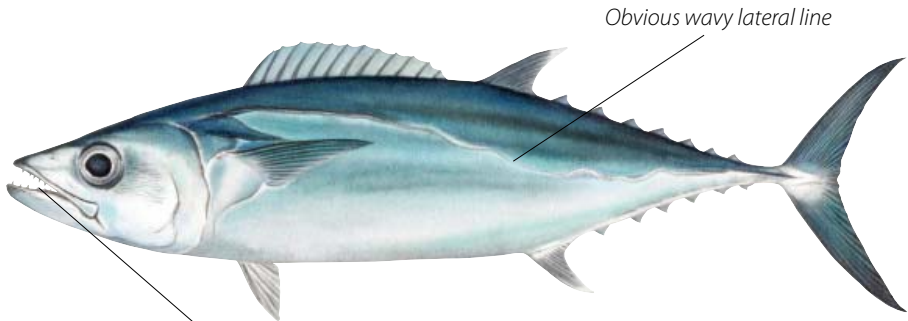
*Euthynnus affinis*



KAW

# *Dogtooth tuna*

*Gymnosarda unicolor*



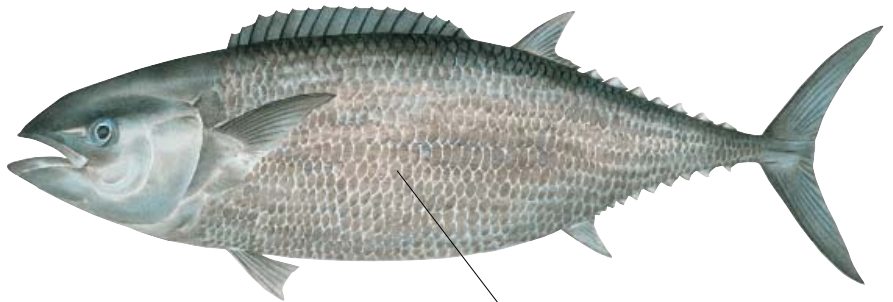
Obvious wavy lateral line

Cone-shaped (dog-like) teeth  
in a large mouth

DOT

# *Butterfly kingfish*

*Gasterochisma melampus*



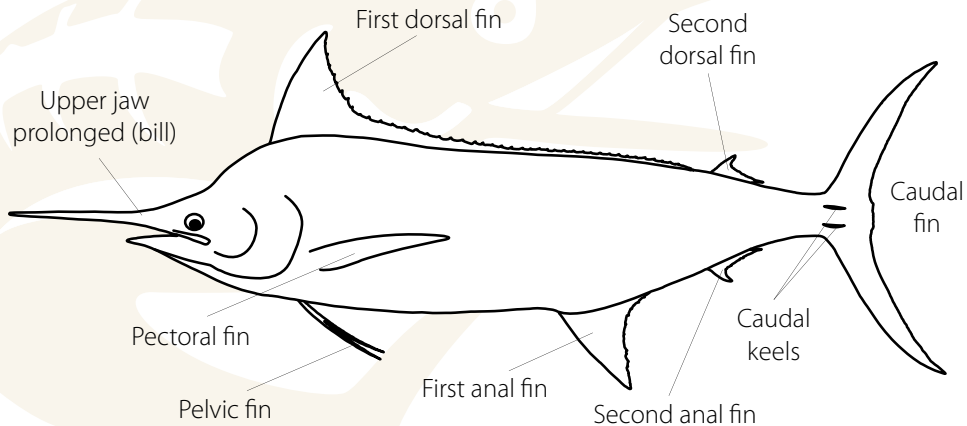
*Body covered in large shiny scales*

BUK



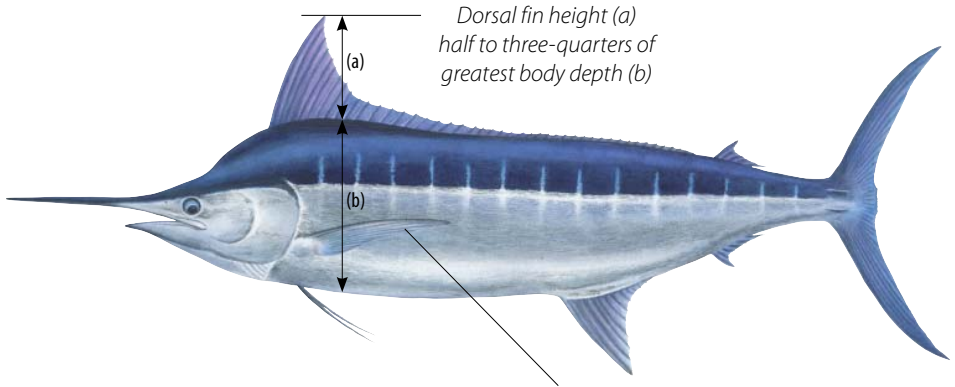


# Billfish



# Blue marlin

*Makaira nigricans*

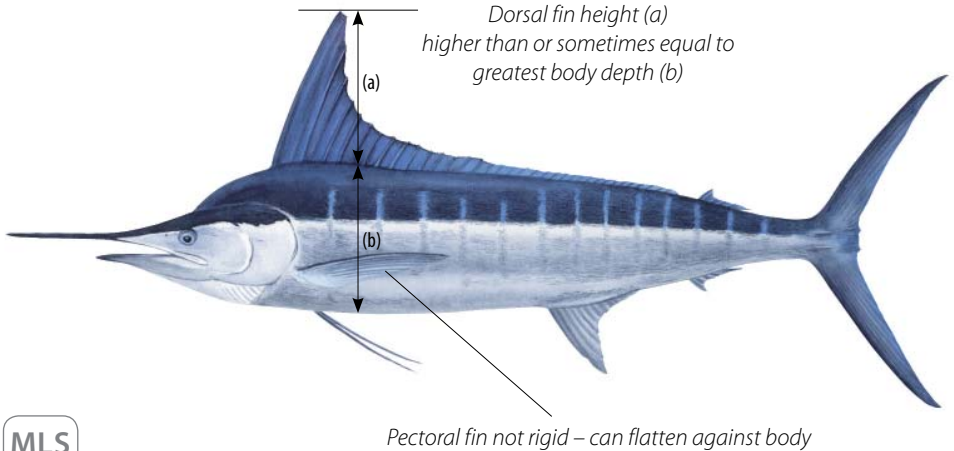


Dorsal fin height (a)  
half to three-quarters of  
greatest body depth (b)

Pectoral fin not rigid – can flatten against body

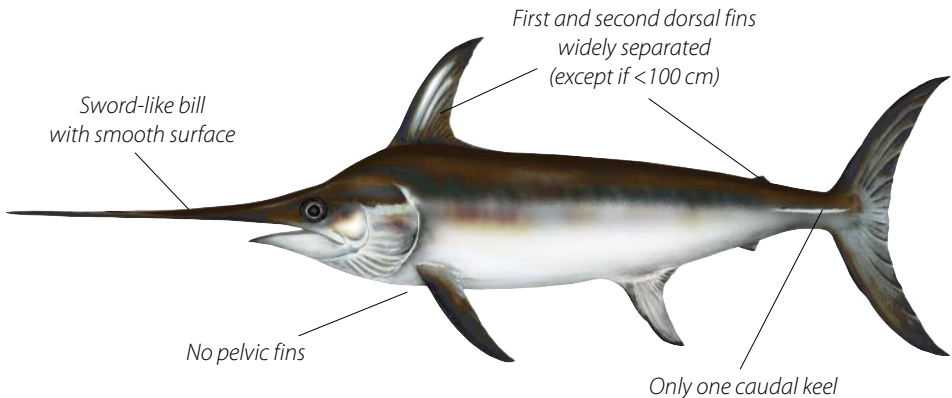
# Striped marlin

*Tetrapturus audax*



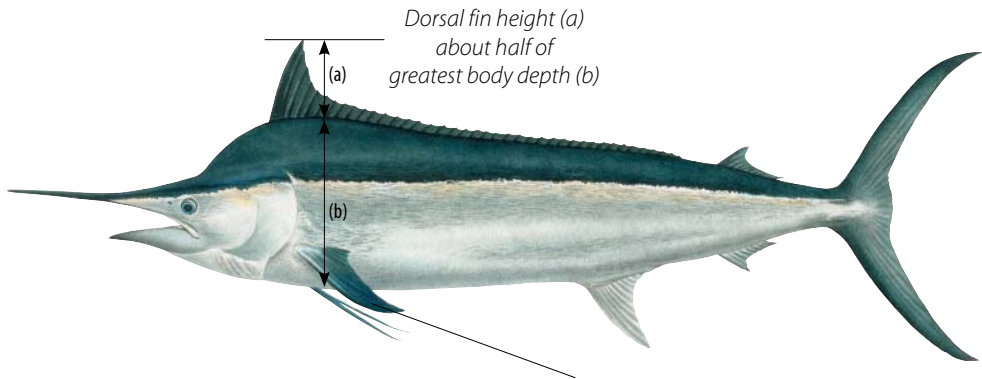
# Swordfish

*Xiphias gladius*



# *Black marlin*

*Makaira indica*



Dorsal fin height (a)  
about half of  
greatest body depth (b)

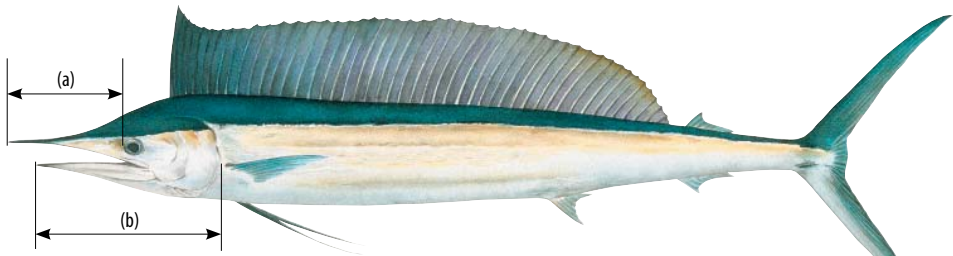
Pectoral fin rigid – cannot flatten against body  
on fish over 40 kg

BLM

# Shortbill spearfish

*Tetrapturus angustirostris*

*Dorsal fin about same height as body depth*



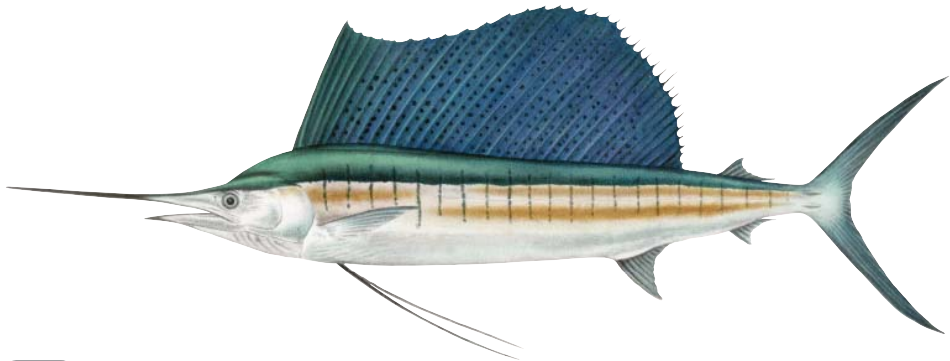
*Bill length (a) very short,  
equal to or shorter than head length (b)*

SSP

# Sailfish

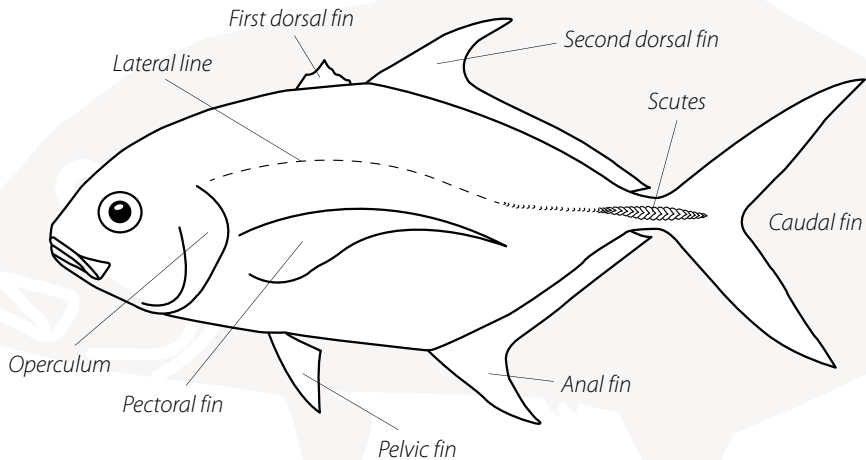
*Istiophorus platypterus*

*Dorsal fin very tall (more than two times body depth)*



SFA

# Jacks



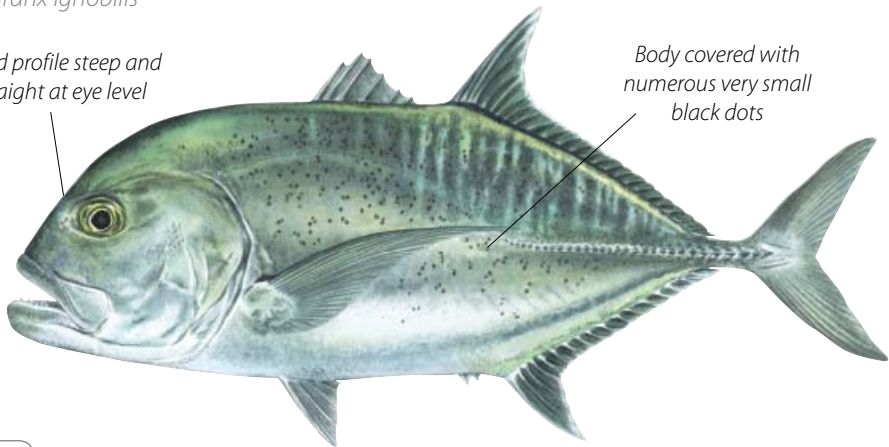


# Giant trevally

*Caranx ignobilis*

Head profile steep and  
straight at eye level

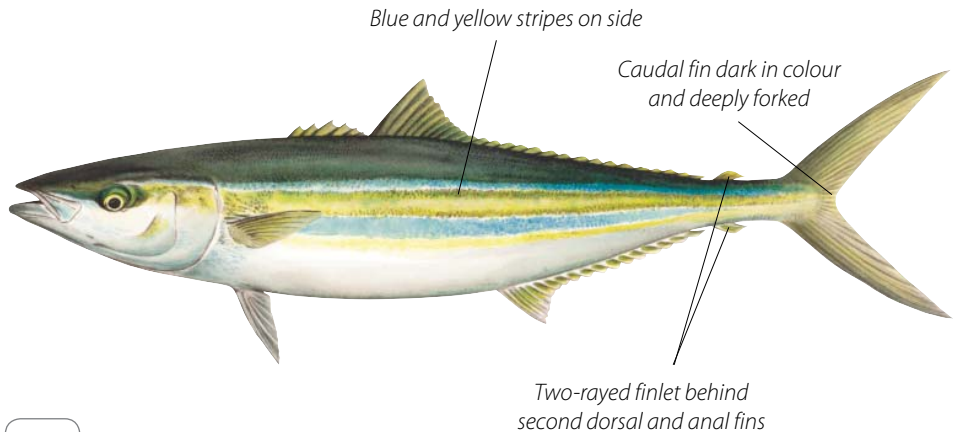
Body covered with  
numerous very small  
black dots



NXI

# Rainbow runner

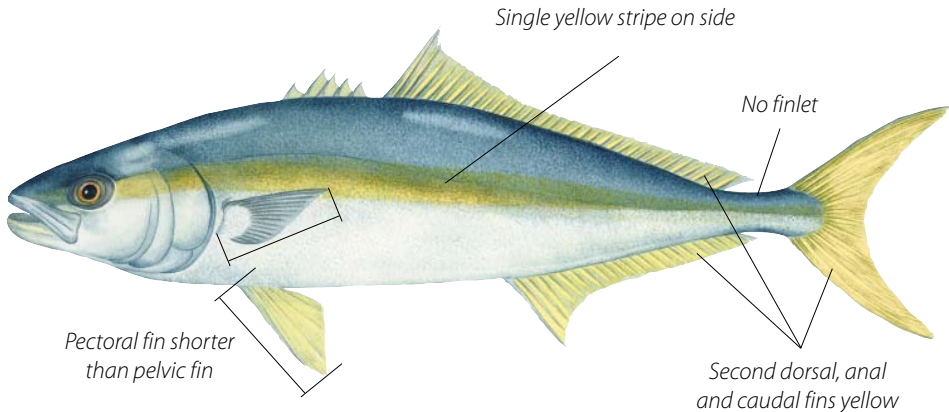
*Elagatis bipinnulata*



RRU

# Yellowtail amberjack

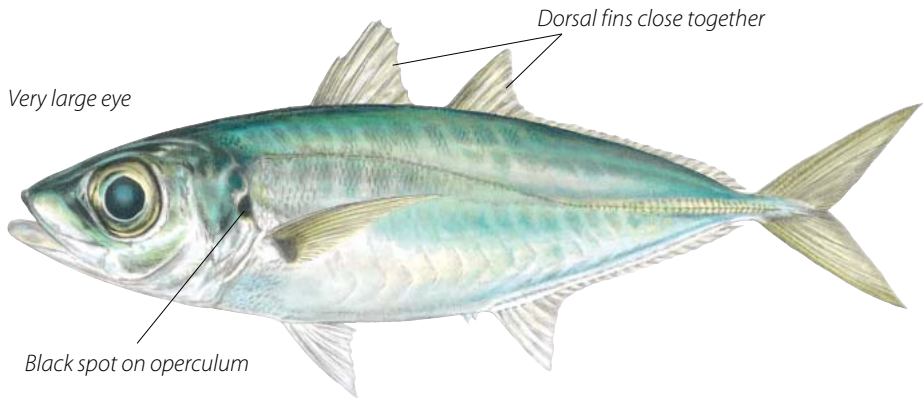
*Seriola lalandi*



YTC

# Bigeye scad

*Selar crumenophthalmus*

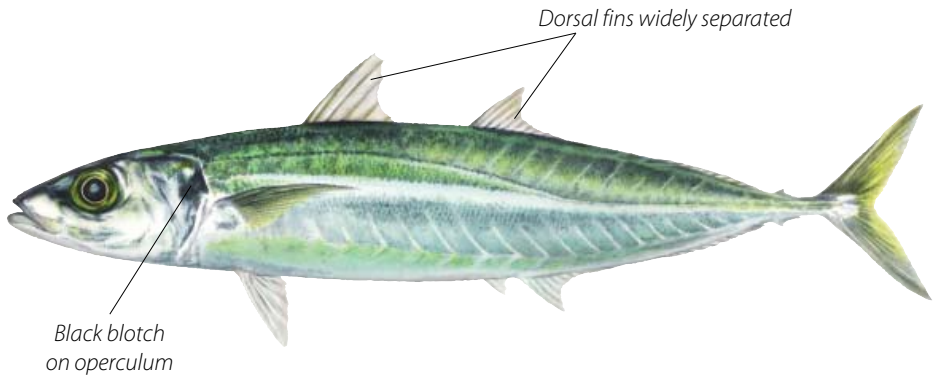


Maximum length: 50 cm

BIS

# *Mackerel scad*

*Decapterus macarellus*



Maximum length: 40 cm

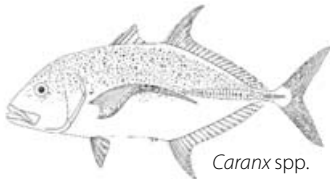
MSD

# Jacks (other)

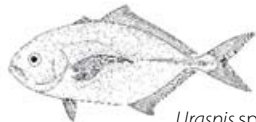
Carangidae



*Carangoides* spp.



*Caranx* spp.



*Uraspis* spp.



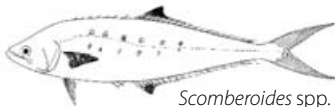
*Selar* spp.



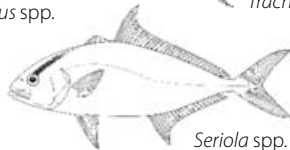
*Decapterus* spp.



*Trachinotus* spp.



*Scomberoides* spp.

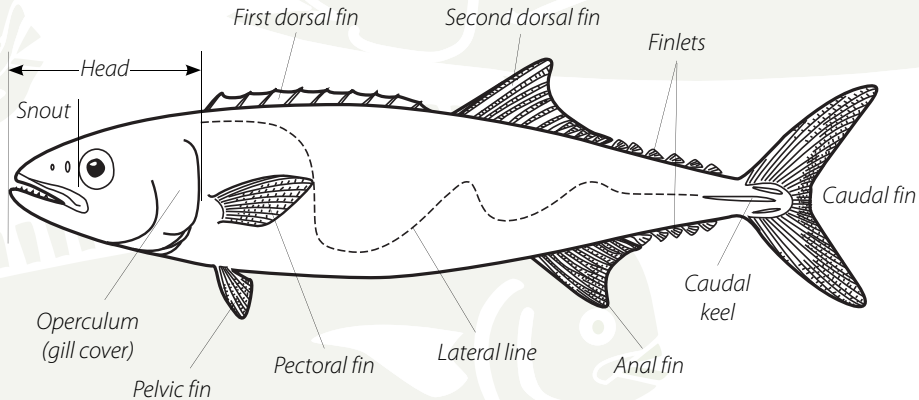


*Seriola* spp.

TRE

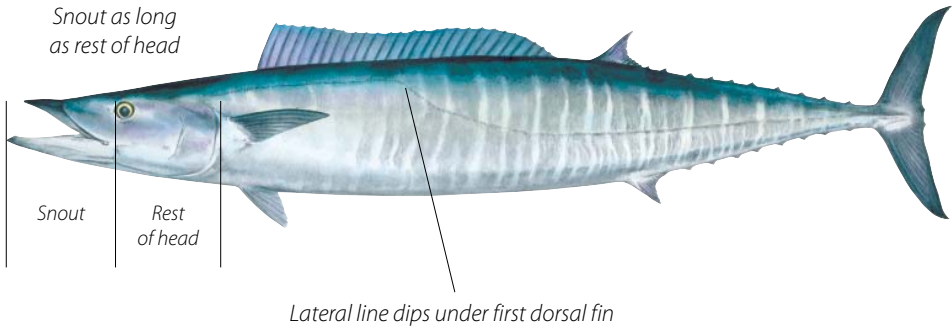
Note: The Carangidae family (jacks) includes 32 genera and about 140 species of highly varied shapes. Jacks are open-water carnivorous fish, usually silvery in colour.

# Other important species



# Wahoo

*Acanthocybium solandri*



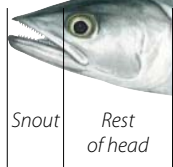
WAH



# Spanish mackerel

*Scomberomorus commerson*

Snout shorter  
than rest of head



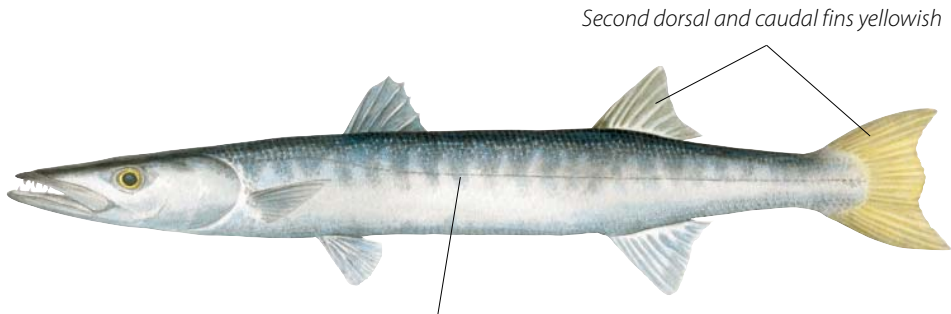
Lateral line dips after first dorsal fin

COM

Other important species

# *Pickhandle barracuda*

*Sphyraena jello*



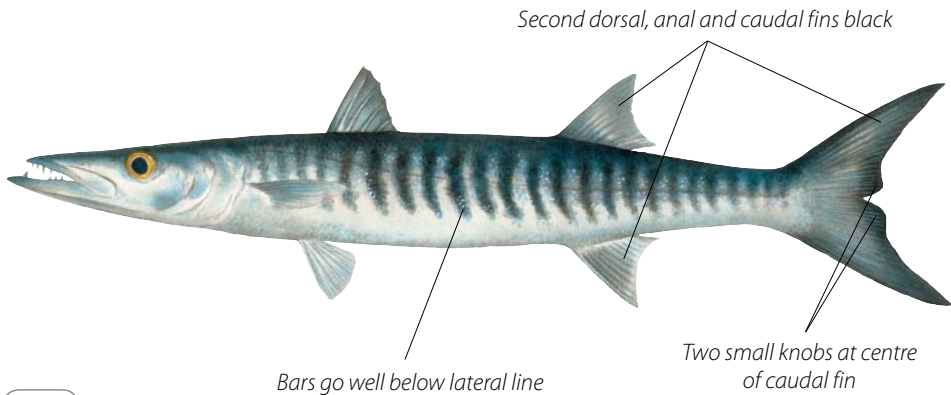
*Second dorsal and caudal fins yellowish*

*Bars are faint, unevenly spaced and go to just below lateral line*

BAC

# *Blackfin barracuda*

*Sphyraena qenie*

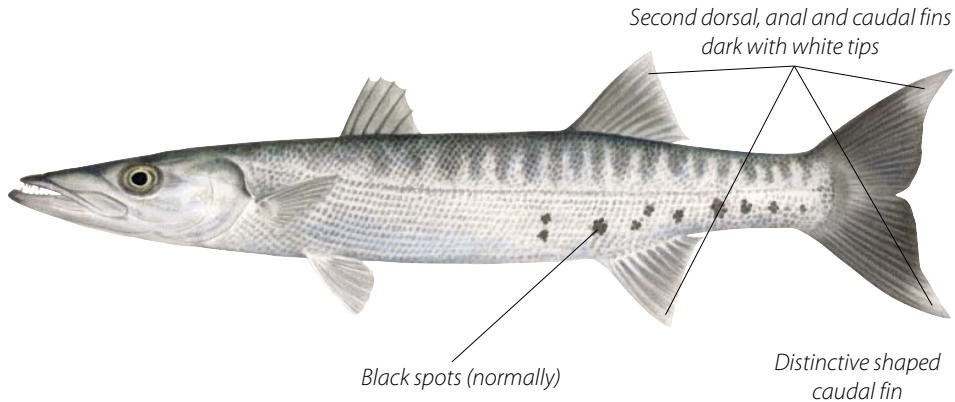


BAB

Other important species

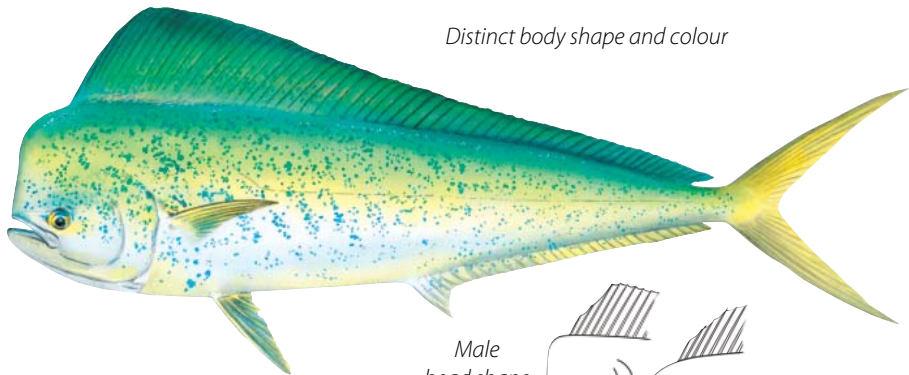
# Great barracuda

*Sphyraena barracuda*



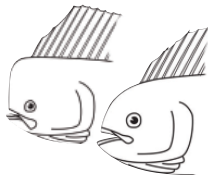
# *Mahi mahi*

*Coryphaena hippurus*



*Distinct body shape and colour*

*Male  
head shape*



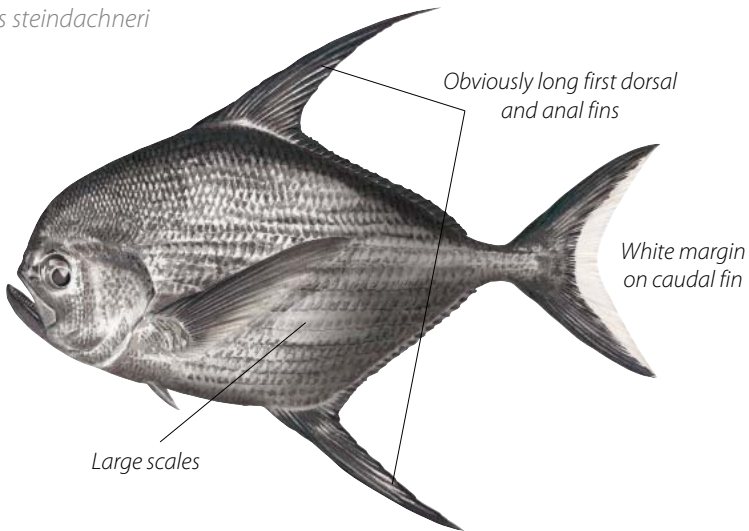
*Female  
head shape*

DOL

*Other important species*

# Sickle pomfret

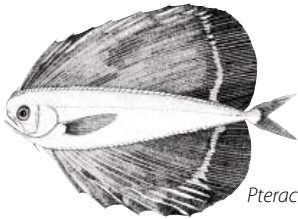
*Taractichthys steindachneri*



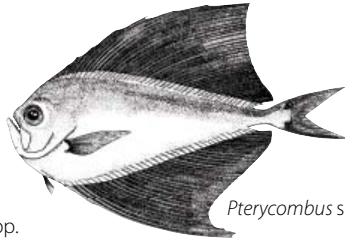
TST

# Pomfrets (other)

Bramidae



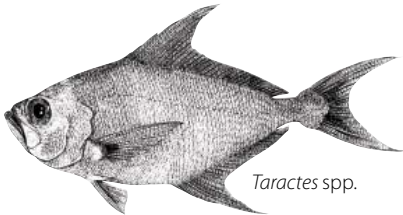
*Pteraclis* spp.



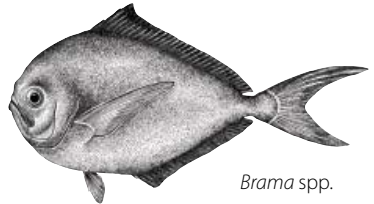
*Pterycombus* spp.

Species in this family have:

- Angle of jaw very slanted
- Single dorsal fin
- Caudal fin of adults strongly forked



*Taractes* spp.



*Brama* spp.

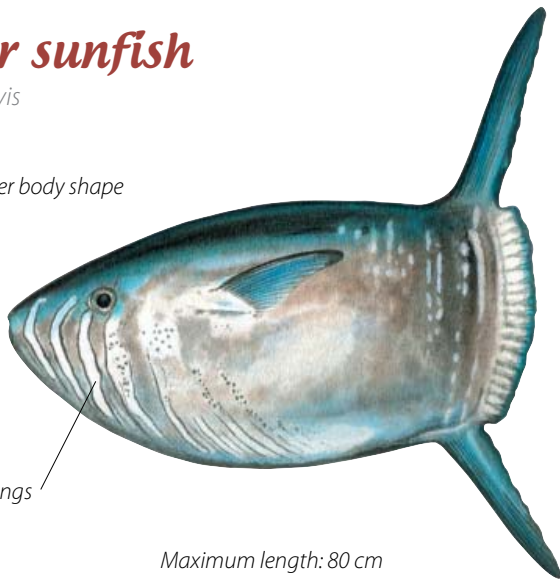
BRZ

Other important species

# *Slender sunfish*

*Ranzania laevis*

*Slender body shape*



*No protruding "tail"*

*Distinct markings*

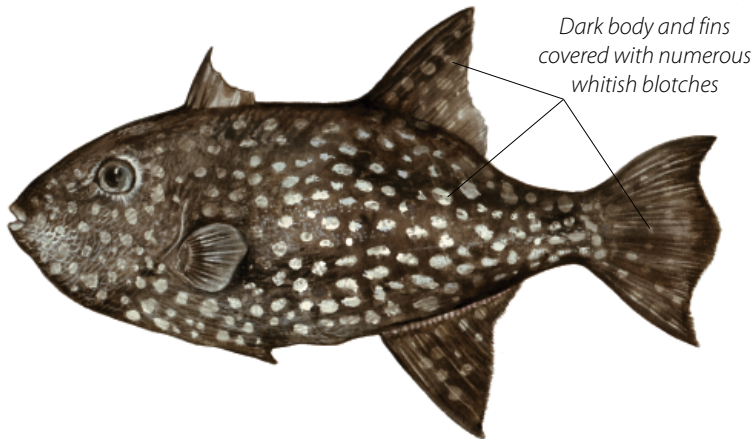
RZV

*Maximum length: 80 cm*



# *Rough triggerfish*

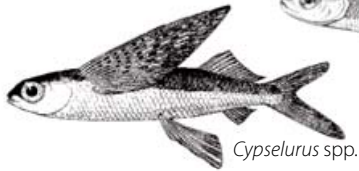
*Canthidermis maculatus*



CNT

# Flyingfish

Exocoetidae



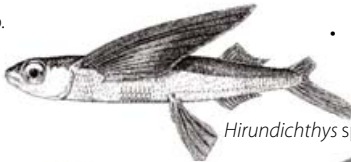
*Cypselurus* spp.



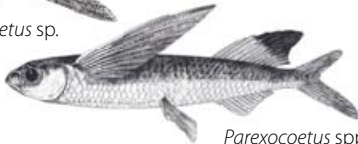
*Cheilopogon* spp.



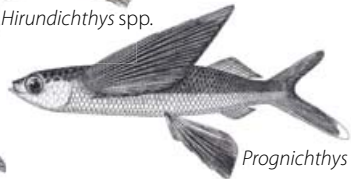
*Exocoetus* sp.



*Hirundichthys* spp.



*Parexocoetus* spp.



*Prognichthys* spp.

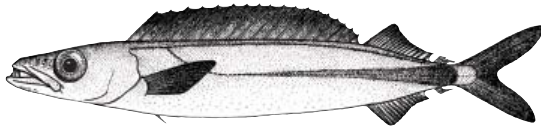
Species in this family have:

- Long wing-like pectoral fins, high on side, always extending beyond origin of dorsal fin
- No spines in fins

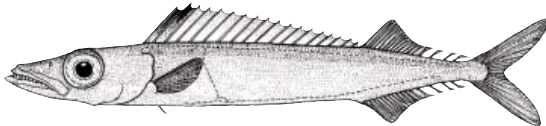
FLY

# Gemfish & snake mackerels

Gempylidae



*Rexea* spp.



*Rexichthys* spp.

Species in this family have:

- Large mouth with strong teeth
- Two dorsal fins, second shorter than first
- Pelvic fin very small, often just a single spine with a few or no soft rays

GEP

Other important species



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