



### *Pacific Blue Marlin*

**Other Names:**

**Aguja Azul**

**Physical Description:**

The Atlantic and Pacific specimens are nearly identical in appearance. The back and upper portions of the body are dark, cobalt blue in color, including the first dorsal fin. The lower portion has a silver-white color. In many cases, there are up to 15 vertical stripes, consisting of small dots and narrow bars, with a lighter cobalt blue color. These stripes become quite bright when the fish is ready to strike or when hooked, but rapidly disappear when the fish is removed from the water. The remaining Blue Marlin fins are generally black-brown in color with the anal fins having a silver-white tinge. The principal way to distinguish Blue Marlin from their relatives is to examine the shape of the dorsal fin tip, which is more pointed on a Blue Marlin. Additionally, the spots found on the fins of most Marlin are absent on the Blue Marlin.

**Range:**

Blue Marlin can be found in tropical and warm temperate waters around the globe, mostly in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. It is the most tropical of the billfish and is often found in waters near the equator. In eastern Pacific waters, they can be found in an area generally from Southern California along the coast of Mexico to Peru in South America.

**Feeding Habits:**

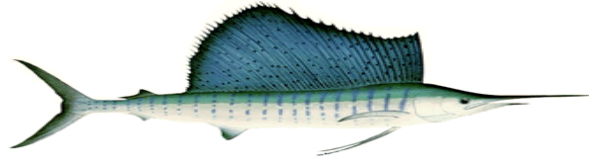
Blue Marlin feed primarily near the surface, though they occasionally dive to deeper water to feed, depending on where their prey is found. Their diet consists mostly of fish and other sea life found near the surface and is highly dependent upon location. This diet can include Tuna, Mackerel, Squid, Octopus, and any number of fish species indigenous to the environment.

**Sporting Qualities:**

Most believe Blue Marlin is the most sought after of all the ocean sport fish. An incredibly strong and powerful bill-fish, Blue Marlin will fight hard and run fast for many hours, especially when you are hooked up to a very large fish. They can suddenly dive to deep water and can make wild acrobatic jumps. With impressive endurance, it is not uncommon to see a hooked fish make up to 40 or more spectacular jumps. This fish can be the ultimate test of an angler's deep-sea fishing skills.

**Habitat:**

Very little is known about the biology of the Blue Marlin, including their migrations and spawning habits. They are known to be a highly mobile species that travels the warm ocean currents with in search of comfortable water temperatures. This species inhabits depths up to about 600 feet and water temperatures between 70 F and 86 F. They are primarily an offshore species found along the edges of continental shelves, near oceanic mountains, underwater canyons, especially near a warm ocean current. Within these environments, they are most likely to be found near large sources of Tuna, Mackerel, and Squid. Although they may occasionally form schools of up to 10 members, as they age they become more solitary in their habits.



### *Pacific Sailfish*

**Other Names:**

**Spindlebeak, Pez Vela**

**Physical Description:**

Pacific Sailfish are dark blue to dark blue-green on top, though when excited they become brighter, with a color some call "electric blue." The sides are brown-blue fading to silver-white on the belly. The primary color of the sail dorsal is steel blue. The upper body and the main dorsal fin are sprinkled with light and dark blue spots. The sides often have powder blue or blue-gray vertical stripes. Many Pacific Sailfish have a gold or copper tint to the gill covers, especially when fatigued. Averages are of 30-60 pounds, but many under 30 pounds and a few up to 100 pounds are also taken. Potential maximum is less than 150 pounds in the Atlantic Ocean. World record is 221 pounds.

**Range:**

Sailfish can be found in tropical and warm temperate waters throughout the World, mostly in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Sailfish are very plentiful off the Costa Rica and Panama coastlines. In Eastern Pacific waters, they can be found in an area generally running from Southern California along the coast of Mexico to Peru in South America.

**Feeding Habits:**

Sailfish feed primarily near the surface, though they occasionally dive to deeper water to feed, depending on where their prey is found. Their diet consists mostly of fish and other sea life found near the surface and is highly dependent upon location.

**Sporting Qualities:**

Unsurpassed in its size range for combined strength and spectacle. A highly popular target for sportfishermen, Pacific Sailfish are a prized trophy species. Their popularity is a result of the challenge of catching one using light tackle, their penchant for dramatic leaps out of the water, and their stunning beauty. Due to declining numbers resulting from overfishing, most Sailfish are now caught and released, though this is not as common off the coast of Mexico and Central America.

**Habitat:**

Like the other Billfish, the Sailfish is considered an ocean species, but generally can be found closer to land than the rest, seeming to prefer areas where coral reefs and/or freshwater runoffs mingle with ocean water. At times the Sailfish comes right into the surf and quite a few have been caught over the years from beaches and piers.



### ***Yellowfin Tuna***

**Other Names:**

**Thunnus Albacares** - (Scientific Name)

**Physical Description:**

Yellowfin Tuna have a muscular, streamlined body like a swimming torpedo and like all Tuna they can swim fast as lightning. A Tuna's color is dark blue to black on the back and tail fin, yellow and silver on the side and belly. The second dorsal and anal fins are yellow and very long in older fish. Finlets run down the back and belly from these two fins to the tail fin and are a bright, canary yellow with black edges.

**Range:**

Yellowfin Tuna are found worldwide in tropical and some subtropical waters. These bodies of water include all three warm oceans Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans and all warm seas except the Mediterranean.

**Feeding Habits:**

Various Baitfish, Crustaceans and Squids make up the bulk of their diet. They will hit pieces of cut up fish, (called chunking). Drift near a school, cut up your bait fish into halves and use for chumming while you place a fish head or half a fish on your hook. Toss out your line, no lead, and work it back into the chum pieces you throw over the side. A tuna may hit the bait right near the surface. They feed most often at or near the surface and are often active at night.

**Sporting Qualities:**

Yellowfin Tuna are considered an excellent food and sport fish and are highly sought after by anglers and commercial fishermen alike. After hitting a lure or bait, they often go deep and will fight with great power and tenacity.

**Habitat:**

Though they can withstand cooler water, Yellowfin Tuna prefer warm water and are found mainly in waters between 62 F and 80 F. Yellowfin Tuna, particularly young fish, usually school below the surface but over deep water, often several hundred feet. They avoid depths because of their intolerance for low concentrations of oxygen.



### ***Wahoo***

**Other Names:**

**Peto, Ono**

**Physical Description:**

Long, slender body marked with zebra-like stripes of white and deep blue or black. Mouth is elongated and narrow, and equipped with razor-sharp teeth.

**Range:**

Wahoo are present in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans in clear, tropical and subtropical waters. Heavy seasonal concentrations occur off the Pacific coasts of Panama, Costa Rica and Baja California in the summer. Offshore of all Florida coasts, especially the Keys, but for more plentiful in the Bahamas and many Caribbean Islands.

**Feeding Habits:**

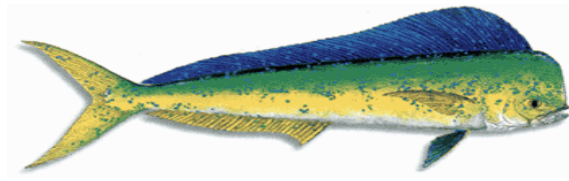
While the Wahoo is perfectly capable of biting chunks out of large fish, it primarily feeds on whole small fishes, such as Sardines, Scads, Mackerel and Squid. They are frequently solitary feeders, but they may sometimes be found in small, loose groups. Wahoo are sub-surface hunters that hang several feet below the surface and shoot up to attack prey with tremendous speed. Although they feed at all times, they tend to be more active in the morning and evening hours.

**Sporting Qualities:**

May strike surface bait in spectacular, greyhounding fashion, but seldom jumps after being hooked. Wild fight is characterized by several sizzling runs, usually at or near the surface. One of the fastest of all gamefish.

**Habitat:**

Roams the deep blue water, but anglers can find them by working dropoffs, seamounts, weedlines and other favorable feeding locations.



### *Dolphin*

**Other Names:**

**Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, Dorado**

**Physical Description:**

The body of the Dolphin is quite slender but fairly deep, with a noticeable tapering from head to tail. The male of the species is distinguished from the female by its high, vertical head. The anal fin has approximately 30 soft rays and stretches over half of the length of the body. The distinctive dorsal fin is long, covering almost three-fourths of the body, and has around 60 soft rays. The caudal fin is deeply forked and contains no spines. -- A blaze of blue and yellow or deep green and yellow when in the water, and sometimes shows dark vertical stripes as well when excited. Small dark spots on sides. Dorsal fin extends nearly from head to tail. Head is very blunt in males (bulls); rounded in females (cows).

**Range:**

While the greatest concentrations of Dolphin are believed to be in the Indian Ocean and the western Pacific, they are found worldwide in tropical and subtropical waters and warm-water currents. All offshore waters of Florida, the Bahamas and the Caribbean.

**Feeding Habits:**

Dolphin are known as voracious predators. While their favorite prey is the flying fish, they also consume squid, shrimp, crustaceans and even smaller dolphin. Using a keen sense of eyesight the Dolphin locates most food near clumps of floating vegetation and objects.

**Sporting Qualities:**

The Dolphin is considered one of the top offshore game fish and is highly targeted by anglers around the World. It is famous for its leaps and flips over the surface when hooked. Because of their speed and agility, Dolphin provide for an exciting catch as they run long and jump often.

**Habitat:**

Dolphin are a warm-water fish usually found in deep waters, close to the surface. While sometimes found in coastal waters, they often concentrate in the open ocean around floating objects such as buoys, driftwood and seaweed clusters. They are considered to be the most surface-oriented of all big-game fish.



### ***Roosterfish***

**Other Names:**

**Pez Gallo, Papagallo**

**Physical Description:**

Gray back, silver body with two pronounced diagonal stripes. Pectoral fin long and sickle shaped, dorsal fin very elongated and supposedly has a likeness to a rooster's comb, hence the common name. Tail fin is deeply forked as is typical of all members of the Jack family.

**Range:**

Pacific Ocean, Sea of Cortez

**Feeding Habits:**

Live bait, with mullet and sardines as their favorite. Rarely taken on lures, but when feeding will hit surface jigs.

**Sporting Qualities:**

An angler will see the Roosterfish come up on and boil on the trolled bait. They will typically circle and whack at the offering before actually crashing on it. A furious fighter with unequalled stamina, unpredictable slashing moves, jumps and long screaming runs.

**Habitat:**

Surf and Rocky areas offshore. Can also be found near islands and reefs.