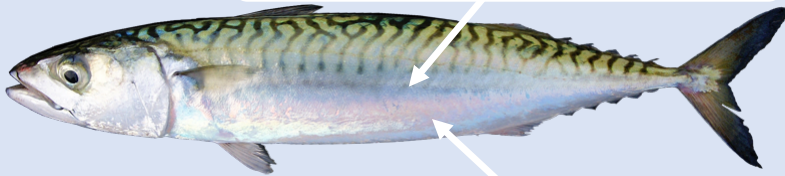


# Commonly Confused Mackerel & Tuna Species

## Atlantic mackerel, *Scomber scombrus*

- Other common names: tinker mackerel, Boston mackerel, common mackerel
- Up to 2 feet

Usually has a broken faint to dark stripe along sides below wavy bars on upper body



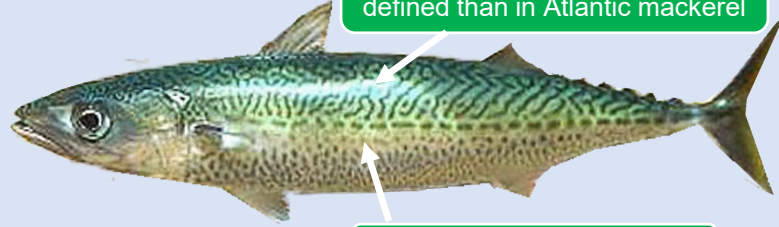
No spots on lower sides

VTR CODE: MACK

## Chub mackerel, *Scomber colias*

- Other common names: tinker mackerel, hardhead, bullseye
- Up to 22 inches

Stripes on upper body less defined than in Atlantic mackerel



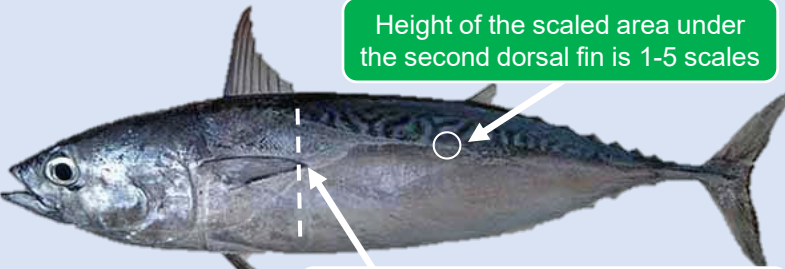
Dusky spots on lower sides

VTR CODE: MACC

## Frigate mackerel/tuna, *Auxis thazard*

- Up to 2 feet

Height of the scaled area under the second dorsal fin is 1-5 scales



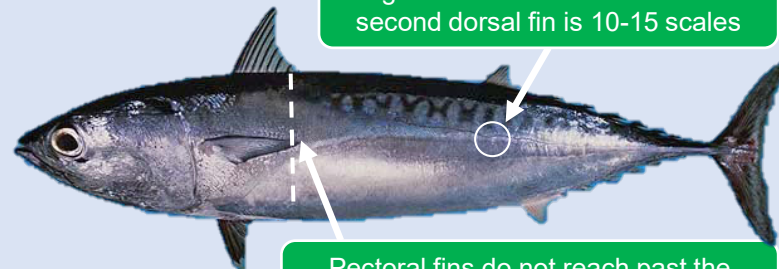
Pectoral fins extend past beginning of scaleless, striped area on upper body

VTR CODE: MACF

## Bullet mackerel/tuna, *Auxis rochei*

- Up to 20 inches

Height of the scaled area under the second dorsal fin is 10-15 scales



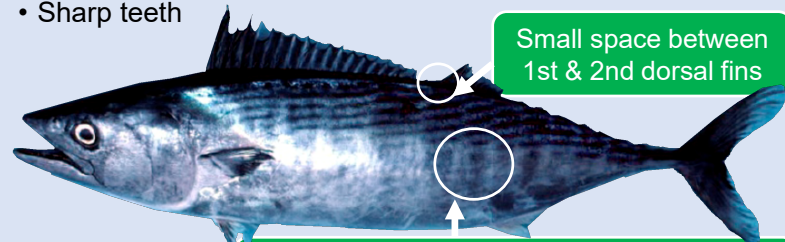
Pectoral fins do not reach past the scaleless, striped area on upper body

VTR CODE: MACB

## Atlantic bonito, *Sarda sarda*

- Up to 3.2 feet
- Body covered in scales; larger scales below striped area
- Sharp teeth

Small space between 1st & 2nd dorsal fins



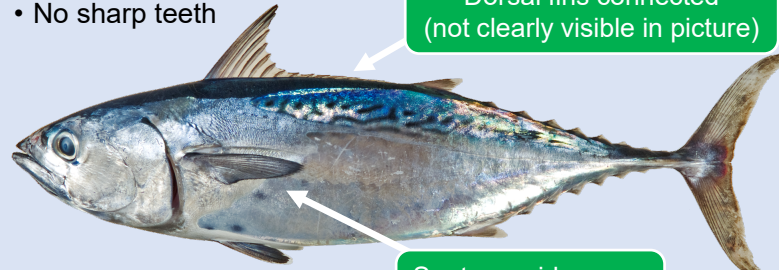
Straight, oblique stripes on upper body sometimes underlain with lighter vertical bars

VTR CODE: BON

## Little tunny, *Euthynnus alletteratus*

- Other common names: false albacore, vaquita, bonito
- Up to 3.5 feet
- No sharp teeth

Dorsal fins connected (not clearly visible in picture)



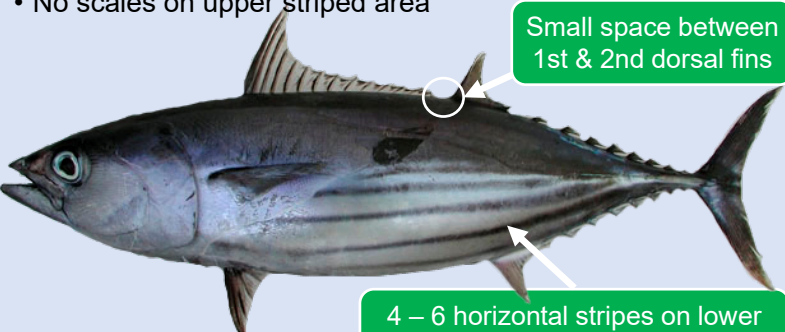
Spots on sides near pectoral fins

VTR CODE: LTA

## Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*

- Up to 3.8 feet
- No scales on upper striped area

Small space between 1st & 2nd dorsal fins



4 – 6 horizontal stripes on lower sides, may be broken or solid

VTR CODE: SKJ

For more information, contact:

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Photos Atl. mackerel: Hans Hillewaert. Chub mackerel: Alessandro Duci. Bullet mackerel: Jack Randall. Frigate mackerel: Robertson & Van Tassell. Bonito: MBL/Flesher Collection. Little tunny: J. T. Williams. Skipjack: R. Freitas.