

MACKEREL

ATLANTIC MACKEREL (*Scomber scombrus*)

COLOR: Blue-green above pectoral fin with wavy dark bars that terminate around the lateral line.

FINS: Anal fin origin directly under second dorsal fin origin.



MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Atlantic chub mackerel (pg. 60).

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / NEFSC / Cooperative Research

ATLANTIC CHUB MACKEREL (*Scomber colias*)

COLOR: Blue-green above pectoral fin with wavy dark bars that terminate around lateral line. Bars turn into spots below lateral line.



MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Atlantic mackerel (pg. 59).

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / NEFSC / FSB

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KING MACKEREL (*Scomberomorus cavalla*)

COLOR: No markings on adults. Juveniles have dark spots on lateral surface.

LATERAL LINE: Lateral line turns downward quickly at second dorsal fin, drops down, and then curves back up to caudal fin.



MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Spanish mackerel (pg. 62).

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / NEFSC / ESB

SPANISH MACKEREL (*Scomberomorus maculatus*)

COLOR: Large brass colored spots on lateral surface. Dark first dorsal fin.

LATERAL LINE: Lateral line slopes evenly downward posterior to pectoral fin with no sudden drops or undulations.



MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: King mackerel (pg. 61).

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / NEFSC / ESB

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ATLANTIC BONITO (*Sarda sarda*)

COLOR: Blue-green dorsal surface with dark horizontal stripes. Juveniles may have obscure vertical bars. No spots below pectoral fin.

BODY: Undulating lateral line.

HEAD: Large mouth.



MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Little tunny (false albacore) (pg. 64).

PHOTO CREDIT: MBL / Flescher Collection

LITTLE TUNNY (FALSE ALBACORE) (*Euthynnus alletteratus*)

COLOR: Wavy bars on dorsal surface. 3-7 dark spots between pectoral and pelvic fins.

FINS: Concave first dorsal fin. Short and broad pectoral fins.



MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Atlantic bonito (pg. 63).

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / NEFSC / ESB

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SKIPJACK TUNA (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

COLOR: Purple-blue dorsal surface. Silver lateral sides and ventral surface. 4-6 horizontal dark stripes below pectoral fin.

FINS: Concave first dorsal fin.



PHOTO CREDIT: University of Cape Verde / Rui M. Freitas

BLUEFIN TUNA (*Thunnus thynnus*)

COLOR: Dark iridescent-blue dorsal surface. Silver lateral sides and belly. Red-brown second dorsal fin stands taller than first dorsal fin.

FINS: Short pectoral fins end before origin of second dorsal fin. Yellow finlets with dark edges.



PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / NEFSC / FSB

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