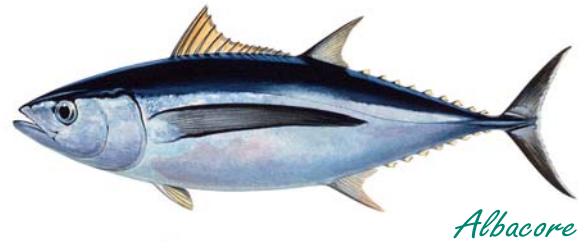




Tuna and tuna-like fishes of the Bay of Bengal

Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)

Albacore tuna migrates to all oceans. It swims in single species schools, and is one of the two main tuna species (along with skipjack) used for canning. It is labeled as 'solid white' tuna. It reaches up to 1.4 m in length and 60 kg in weight.



Albacore

Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

Bigeye tuna is found in the open waters of all tropical and temperate oceans. In India, it is not as common as yellowfin and skipjack tunas. It grows up to 2.5 m in length and 210 kg in weight. It is preferred for sashimi and grilling.



Bigeye tuna

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

The species is distributed in tropical and warm-temperate waters. It grows up to 1 m in length and 30 kg in weight. In India, skipjack is caught by gillnets and longlines along the mainland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and by pole and line in the Lakshadweep Islands. Its potential yield has been estimated as 99,000 t.



Skipjack tuna

Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

Yellowfin tuna is distributed mainly in the tropical and sub-tropical oceanic waters. The length of the species in the Indian Ocean fishery ranges from 30 cm to 180 cm. It reaches up to 2.4 m in length and 200 kg in weight. Juveniles are limited to surface waters and larger fish to surface and sub-surface waters. Its potential yield has been estimated as 80,000 t in the Indian EEZ. Highly-valued sashimi and loins are produced from yellowfin tuna.



Yellowfin tuna

Black marlin (*Istiompax indica*)

The species is distributed in tropical and sub-tropical areas of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. With a maximum published length of 4.65 m and weight of 750 kg, it is one of the largest bony fish. This marlin is also one of the fastest fish, reaching speeds of up to 129 km/h.



Black marlin

Blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*)

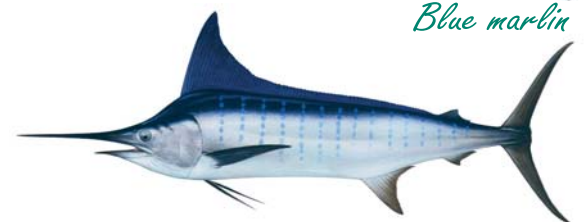
Blue marlin reaches up to 5 m in length and 636 kg in weight. It is solitary, migratory and prefers warm waters. It swims close to surface, but can dive to great depths.



Blue marlin

Striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*)

Striped marlin is a small species of the marlin group, found in tropical and temperate waters of Indo-Pacific Oceans. It grows up to 4.2 m in length and 440 kg in weight. In India, marlins are taken by longlines.



Striped marlin

Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)

Swordfish is found widely in tropical and temperate parts of the oceans. It is found from near the surface to a depth of 550 m. It reaches 4.5 m in length and 650 kg in weight. It is mainly caught by longlines.



Swordfish

Indo-Pacific sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*)

Sailfish is mostly found in warmer oceans. It has a characteristic erectile dorsal fin known as sail and an elongated bill, resembling that of swordfish and other marlins. It attains up to 3.5 m in length and 100 kg in weight. It is caught by longlines.



Indo-Pacific sailfish

Bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*)

Bullet tuna is coastal, found circumglobally in tropical oceans at about 50 m depth. The maximum length is 50 cm. It is important in artisanal fisheries, especially in driftnet fisheries along the Indian coast. Landings are often mixed with *Auxis thazard*.



Bullet tuna

Frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*)

Frigate tuna is a coastal species. The common size in catches ranges between 25 and 40 cm, but depends on the type of gear used, and may also vary seasonally and by region. In India, it occurs in artisanal driftnet fisheries.



Frigate tuna

Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*)

An epipelagic, neritic species inhabiting water temperatures ranging from 18 to 29° C. It is the most common tuna along the Indian coasts, contributing 42% of the tuna landings. It is taken mainly by drift gillnets. The potential yield is estimated as 38,646 t.



Kawakawa

Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*)

Longtail tuna is an epipelagic, predominantly neritic species found along the east and west coasts of India. A small fish reaching up to 145 cm in length, but the common length in the fishery ranges between 40 and 70 cm. It is taken essentially by drift gillnets and hooks & line. The potential yield is estimated as 8,128 t.



Longtail tuna

Oriental bonito (*Sarda orientalis*)

Bonito is a small and slender-bodied coastal tuna, distributed in the Indo-Pacific region. It reaches up to 100 cm and 10 kg, but the common size in the fishery in India is 30 to 50 cm. Bonito is taken mainly by drift gillnets.



Oriental bonito

Dogtooth tuna (*Gymnosarda unicolor*)

A slender and elongated tuna, distributed in the Indo-Pacific region. It reaches about 250 cm in length, but the common size in the fishery in India is 40 to 60 cm. It constitutes a minor fishery for gillnets.



Dogtooth tuna

