

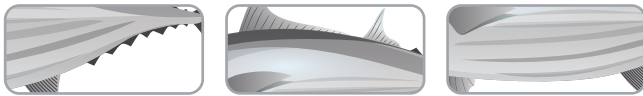
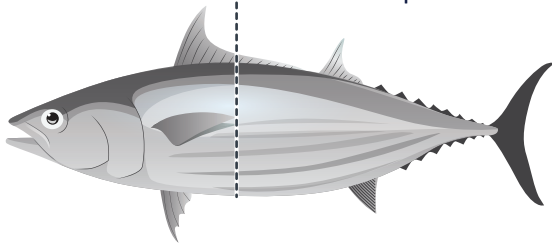
# ATLANTIC TUNA



Atlantic HMS Permit required for the harvest, sale, and/or purchase of Atlantic bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas\* in federal and state waters of the U.S. Caribbean.

\*These tunas are managed by the HMS Management Division

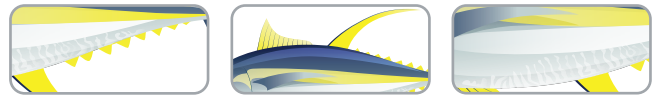
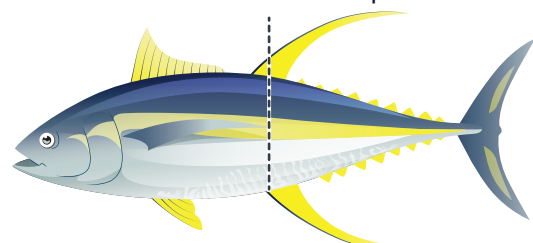
Grows up to 3 ft and 40 lb



## SKIPJACK TUNA *Katsuwonus pelamis (bacora)*

- Ventral finlets silver or dark
- Pectoral fin does **not** reach 2nd dorsal fin
- 4-6 horizontal stripes on lower side

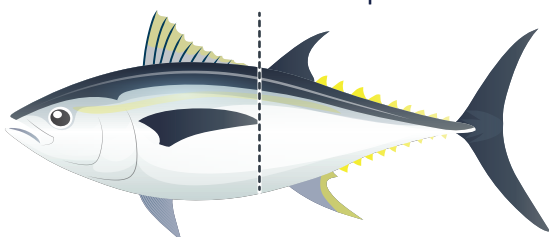
Grows up to 6 ft and 400 lb



## YELLOWFIN TUNA *Thunnus albacares (aleta amarilla)*

- Ventral finlets yellow
- Pectoral fin **extends beyond** origin of 2nd dorsal fin
- Pattern of alternating light lines and dots on belly region

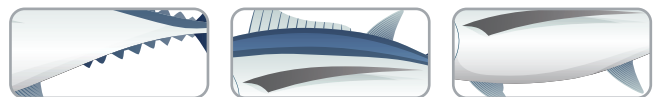
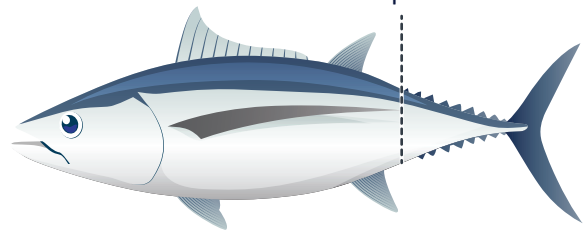
Grows up to 6 ft and 400 lb



## BIGEYE TUNA *Thunnus obesus (ojon)*

- Ventral finlets yellow
- Pectoral fin **only reaches** origin of 2nd dorsal fin
- No dot and line pattern on belly region

Grows up to 4 ft and 90 lb



## ALBACORE TUNA *Thunnus alalunga (albacora)*

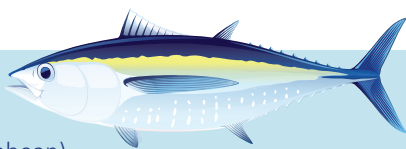
- Ventral finlets silver or dark
- Pectoral fin **only reaches beyond** anal fin base
- No dot and line pattern on belly region

Atlantic tunas managed by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

Fishers must abide by those regulations.

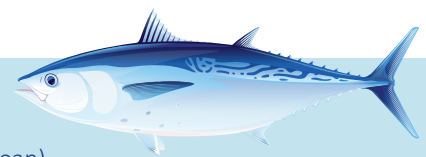
## BLACKFIN

*Thunnus atlanticus*  
(bonito in U.S. Caribbean)

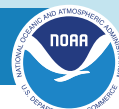


## LITTLE TUNNY

*Euthynnus alletteratus*  
(vaquita in U.S. Caribbean)



# Safe Catch and Release



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

*Blackfin, yellowfin, and bigeye tunas below the minimum size are very similar and difficult to identify.*

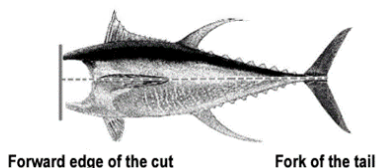
**If you cannot identify a tuna, please let it go using the following techniques:**

- Keep the fish in the water, boatside, while safely removing the hook
- Do not gaff the fish in the body
- If you cannot safely remove the hook, cut the leader as short as possible
- Help revive the fish by slowly towing it in the water until its color or energy returns

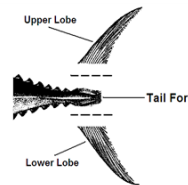
## Minimum Size Requirements

for all Recreational and Commercial HMS Tuna Permits

Species	Minimum Size <i>(curved fork length)</i>
Skipjack Tuna	None
Yellowfin Tuna	27"
Bigeye Tuna	27"
Albacore Tuna	None



All Atlantic tunas may be landed round with fins intact, or eviscerated with the head removed, as long as the fish remains within the specified minimum size and both the tail and at least one pectoral fin remain attached through landing (all other fins may be removed).



The upper and lower lobes of the tuna tail may be removed for storage purposes as long as the fork of the tail remains intact (see tail trimming).

## HMS Tuna Permits

*\* Required to sell to a federally permitted Atlantic Tunas Dealer \*\* Allows the catch and sale of Atlantic tunas*

Type	Permits Needed	Bag Limits	Get a Permit
Recreational	HMS Angling HMS Charter/Headboat Fishing For-Hire Trip	<b>Yellowfin</b> 3 per person per day <b>Bigeye, Albacore, Skipjack</b> No limit	 HMS Permits
Commercial	Atlantic Tunas General Category* HMS Charter/Headboat Fishing For-Hire Trip with commercial sale endorsement*	<b>No limit</b>	 Southeast Fisheries Permits
	HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat**	<b>10 Tunas</b> per vessel per trip	
	Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit	Allows purchase and sale of Atlantic tunas; weekly reporting requirement	 Atlantic Tuna Dealer Permits