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Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

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Identification: Target and Non-target Fish Species

IOTC ROS SFO TR9



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Common Indian Ocean pelagic fish bycatch species

IOTC ROS SFO TR9.6

Category: Identification of target and non-target fish species

IOTC ROS SFO TR9



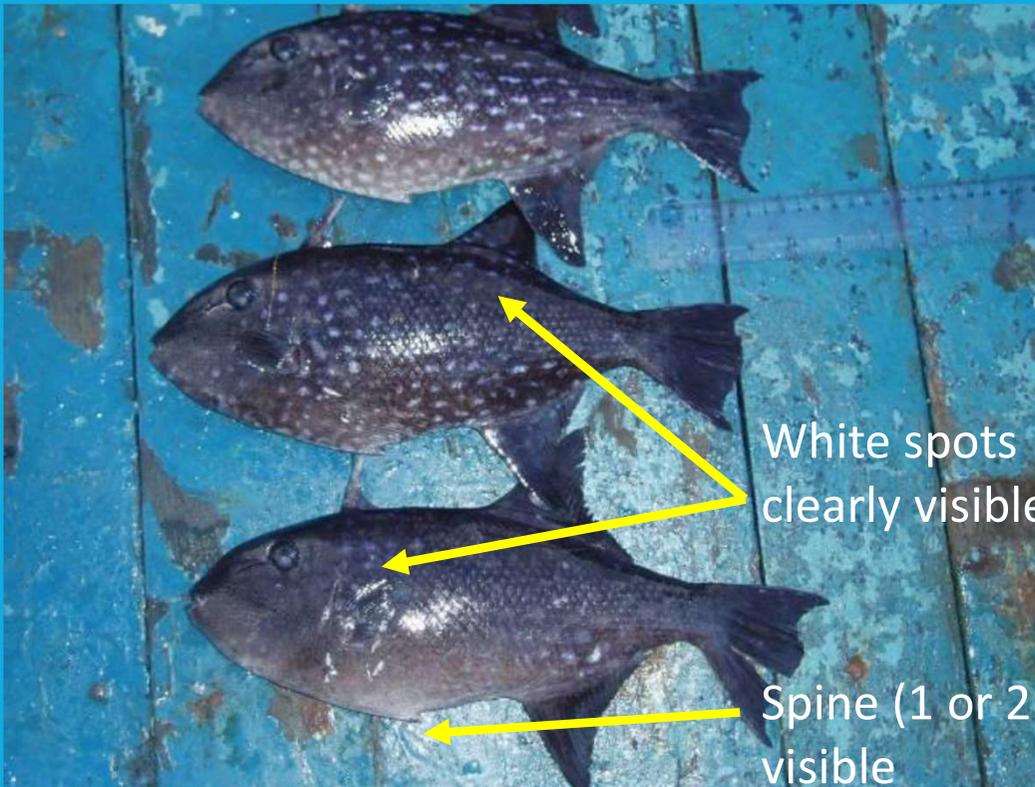
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SPOTTED OCEANIC TRIGGERFISH - *Canthidermis maculatus* - TRI

Fresh Caught

After freezing in brine



White spots
clearly visible

Spine (1 or 2)
visible



White spots faded or fish appears
completely black

Note: very common in purse-seine sets, particularly on logs and FADs





Caranx - BIGEYE TREVALLY - *Caranidax sexfasciatus* - CSX

Fresh Caught



1. Dorsal lobe (soft) and anal fin with white-tipped lobes.
2. Caudal fin yellowish to black.
3. Two detached spines with the anal fin

After freezing in brine



- Body color blue-green dorsally, silvery white lower body fades
- Ridge clearly visible





RAINBOW RUNNER - *Elagatis bipinnulata* - RRU

Fresh Caught



Blue and yellow stripes clearly visible

Two rayed finlets behind second dorsal and anal fins

Frozen in Brine



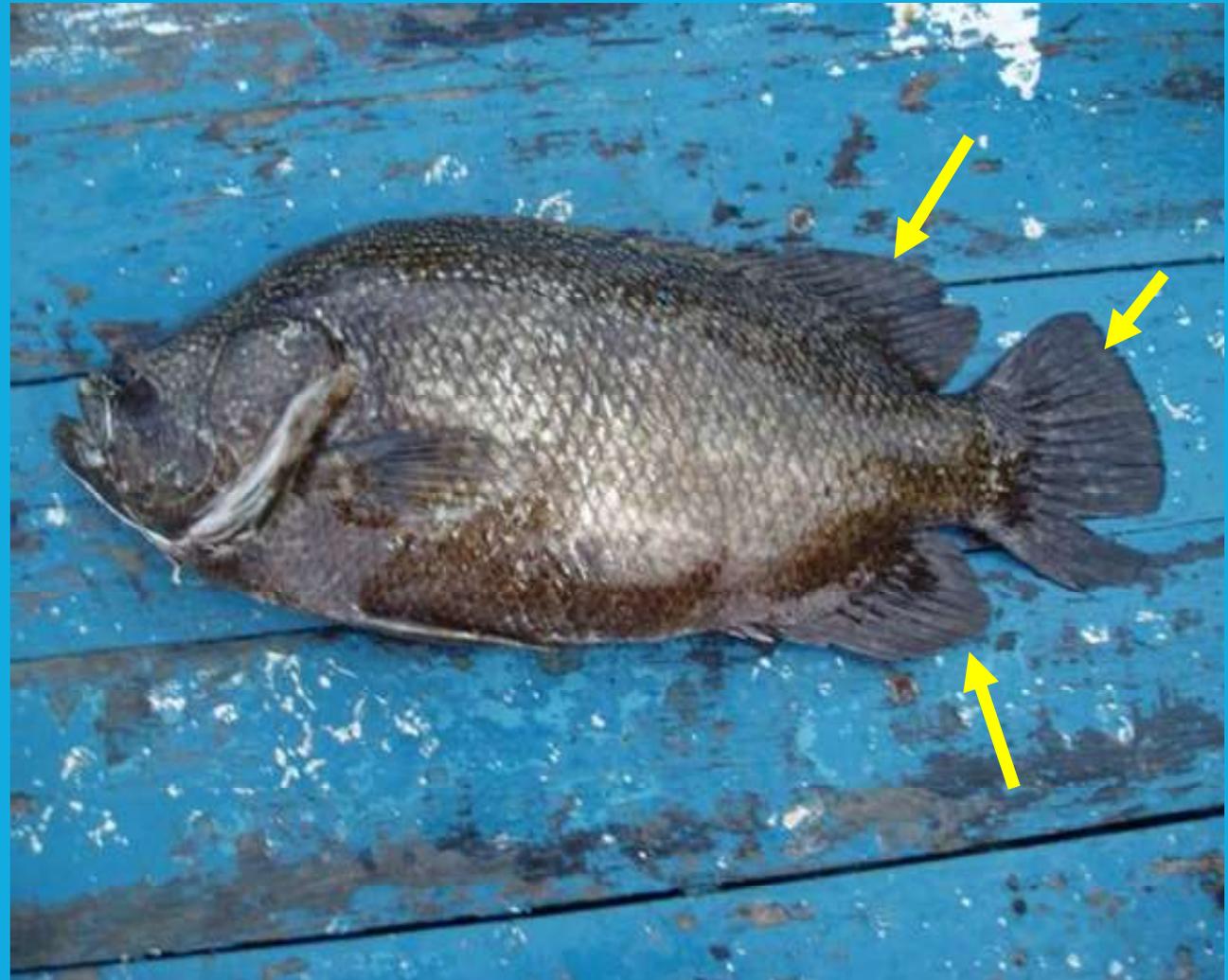
Stripe colours faded but diagnostic finlets still visible





TRIPLE TAIL - *Lobotes surinamensis* - LOP

- Upper body dark brown to black.
- Lower body bronze with grey to white edges on scale
- Long and round dorsal and anal fin extend close to the tail
- Small eye close to mouth





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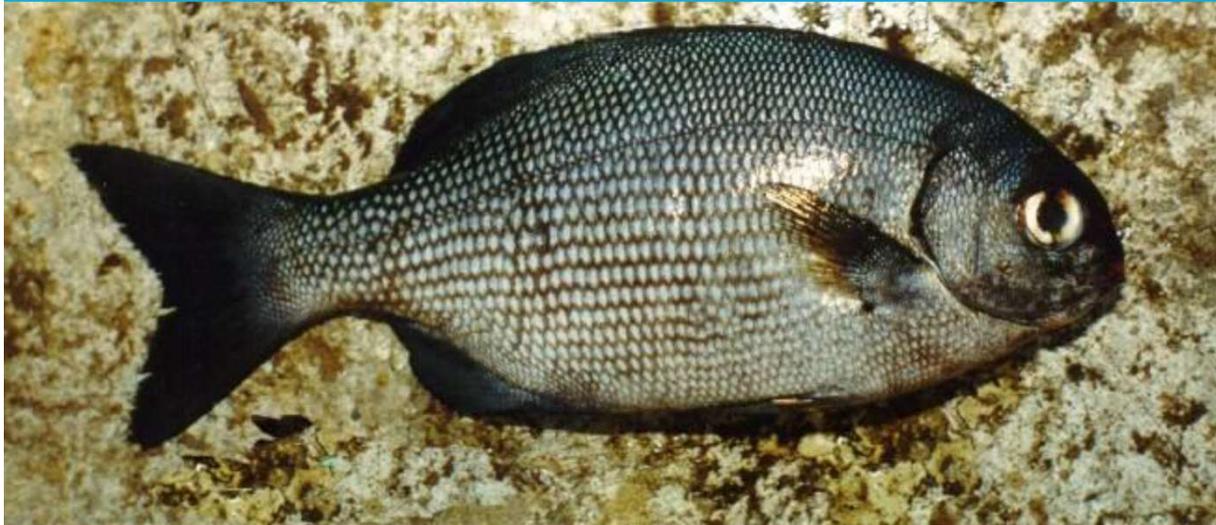


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BLUE SEACHUB - *Kyphosus cinerascens* - KYC

Fresh Caught



- Grey with dusky fins
- Soft parts of dorsal and anal fins elongated anteriorly
- Horizontal stripes made up of small light spots

Frozen in brine



Note: very common in purse-seine sets, particularly on logs and FADs

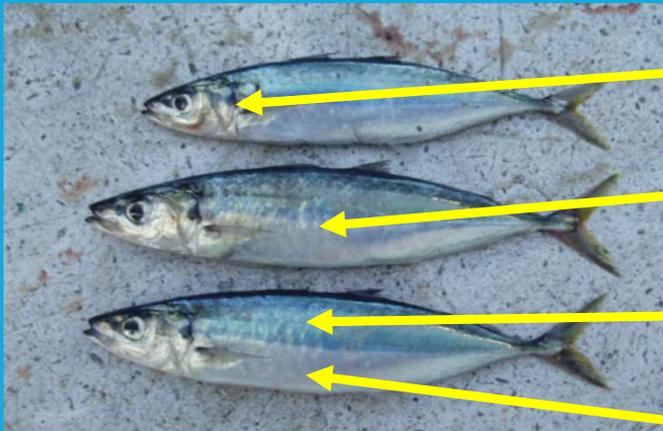


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MACKEREL SCAD - *Decapterus macarellus* - MSD

Fresh Caught



- Black mark on the upper operculum
- Body elongate and slender
- Black metallic green upper body
- Lower belly is silvery white

After freezing in brine

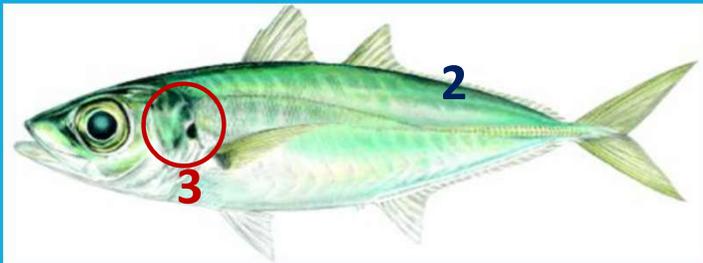


- Black mark on the upper operculum
- Body elongate and slender



BIGEYE SCAD - *Selar crumenophthalmus* - BIS

Diagnostic features:



1. Body elongate and compressed
2. Lateral line clearly visible
3. **Operculum with black spot**
4. Large eye

Frozen in brine



- Body compressed
- Lateral line clearly visible



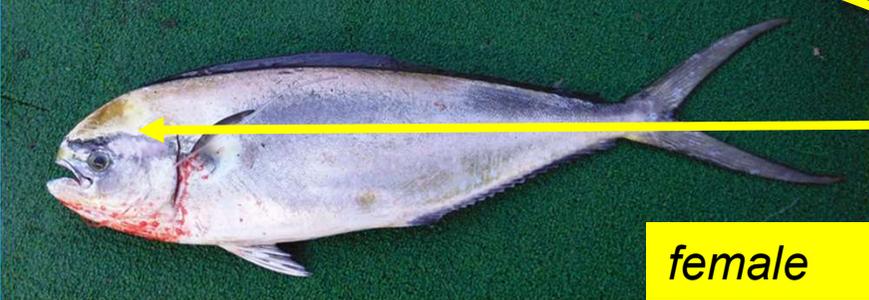
DOLPHIN FISH - *Coryphaena hippurus* - DOL

male



- Distinct body shape and color
 - *Bright green blue upper body*
 - *Bright yellow lower body*

- Males have high forehead
- Females have rounded forehead



female

Fresh Caught

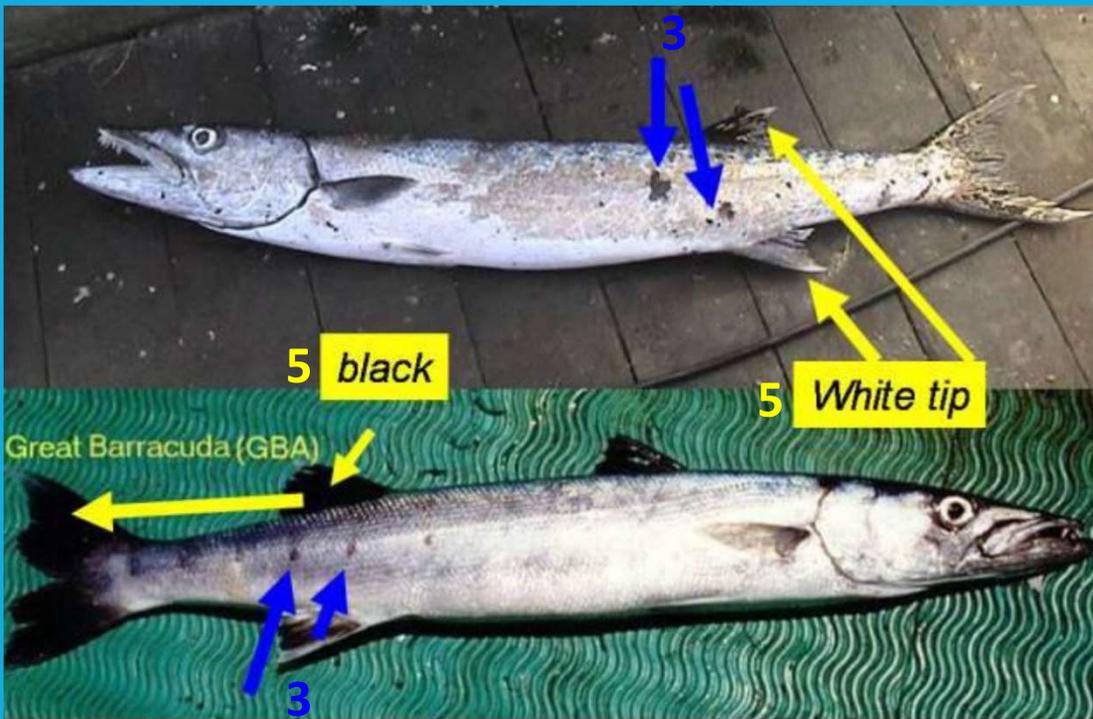
Frozen in Brine





GREAT BARACUDA - *Sphyraena barracuda* - GBA

Fresh Caught



1. Lower jaw extends in front of upper snout
2. Short dark bars on silvery sides, white belly
3. A few irregular dark blotches on sides
4. Large scales
5. Dark second dorsal, anal and tail fins with white tips





ESCOLAR - *Lepidocybium flavobrunneum* - LEC

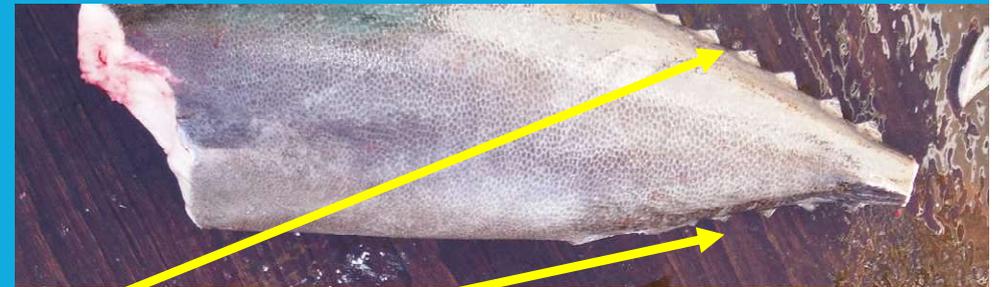
Fresh Caught



- Smooth skin
- Main caudal keel with two supplementary keels
- Overall color is dark gray to black, may look dark brown



Freshly dressed and after blast freezing



- Body is covered with small soft scales
 - Many dorsal & anal finlets



OILFISH - *Ruvettus pretiosus* - OIL

Fresh Caught

After blast freezing



• Two dorsal & anal finlets



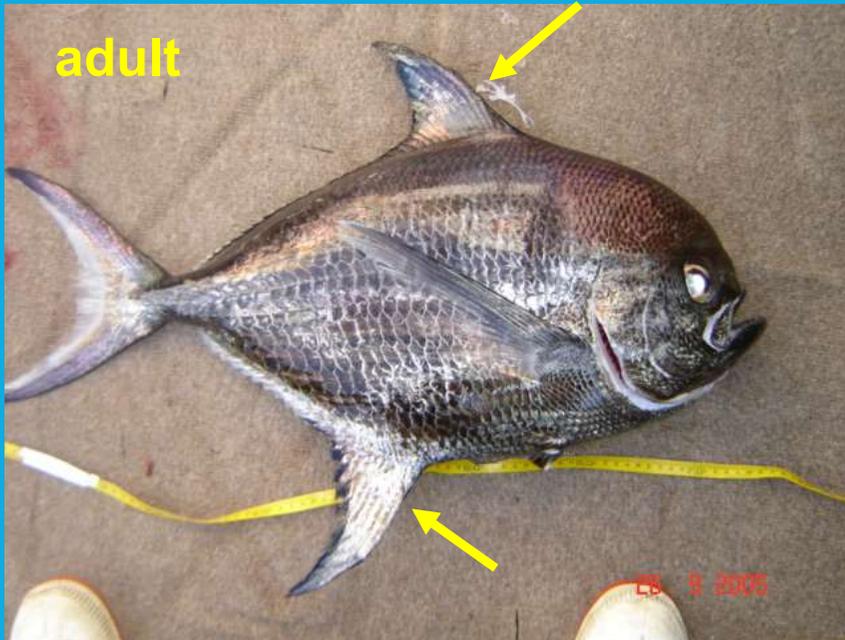
Shape and
pattern of scales





SICKLE POMFRET - *Taractichthys steindachneri* - TST

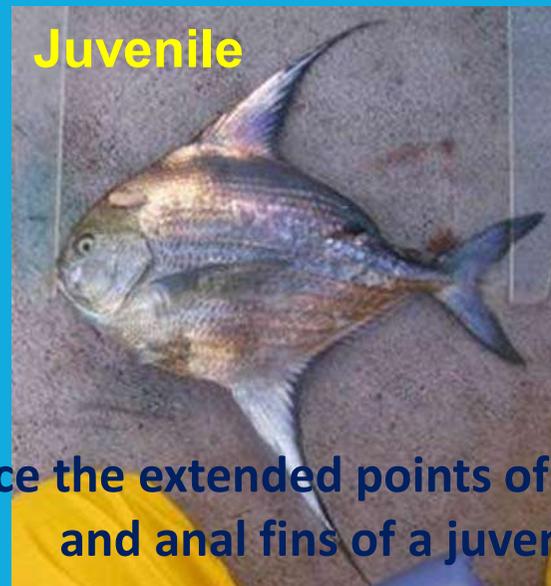
Fresh Caught



After blast freezing



- Falcate long dorsal and anal fins
- White margin on trailing edge of caudal fin
- Silver-white tipped pelvic fins

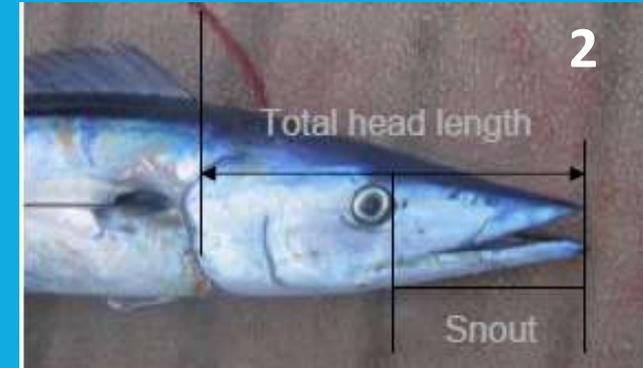


Notice the extended points of the dorsal and anal fins of a juvenile





WAHOO - *Acanthocybium solandri* - WAH



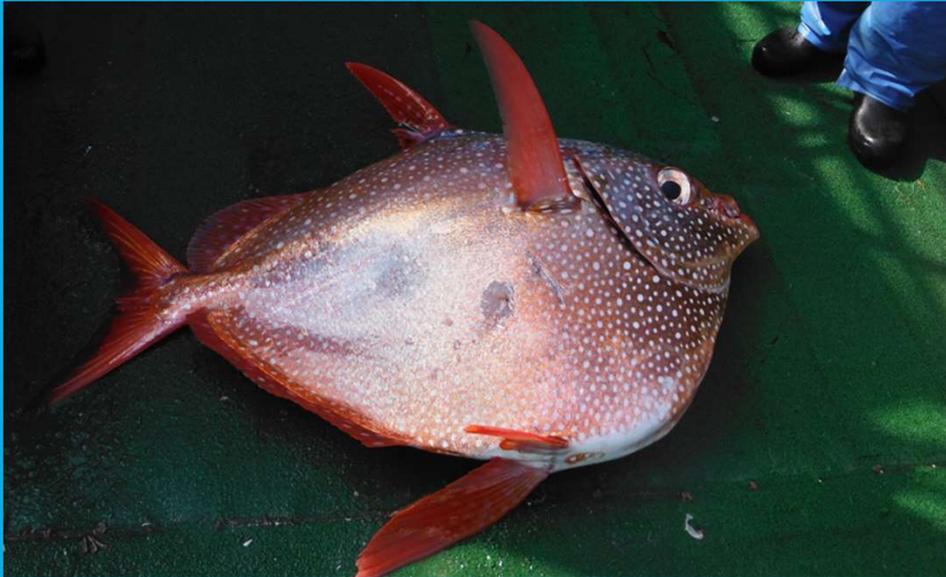
1. Many vertical bars along the body that may fade after death
2. The length of the snout makes up half of the total head length
3. Distinctive dip in lateral line underneath (not after) the first dorsal fin
4. Prominent caudal keel flanked by two smaller keels on caudal fin base





OPHA / MOONFISH - *Lampris guttatus* - LAG

Fresh Caught



Processing:



- Body is generally disc shaped
- Body is silvery and covered with white spots, somewhat darker with an orange tone dorsally
- Fins are bright reddish-orange
- Lips are bright red-orange
- Pelvic fins are long and wide, tail is mildly forked





OCEAN SUNFISH - *Mola mola* - MOX



Note lack of tail extension



- Disc shaped without a tail
- Grey colour, darker dorsally often with lighter grey/white spots

SHARPTAIL Mola - *Masturus lanceolatus* - MRW



Note tail extension

- Tail-like projection in centre of posterior end
- Two tone colour pattern (brown and white/silver)
- Oval/round body shape



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ANY QUESTIONS?



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