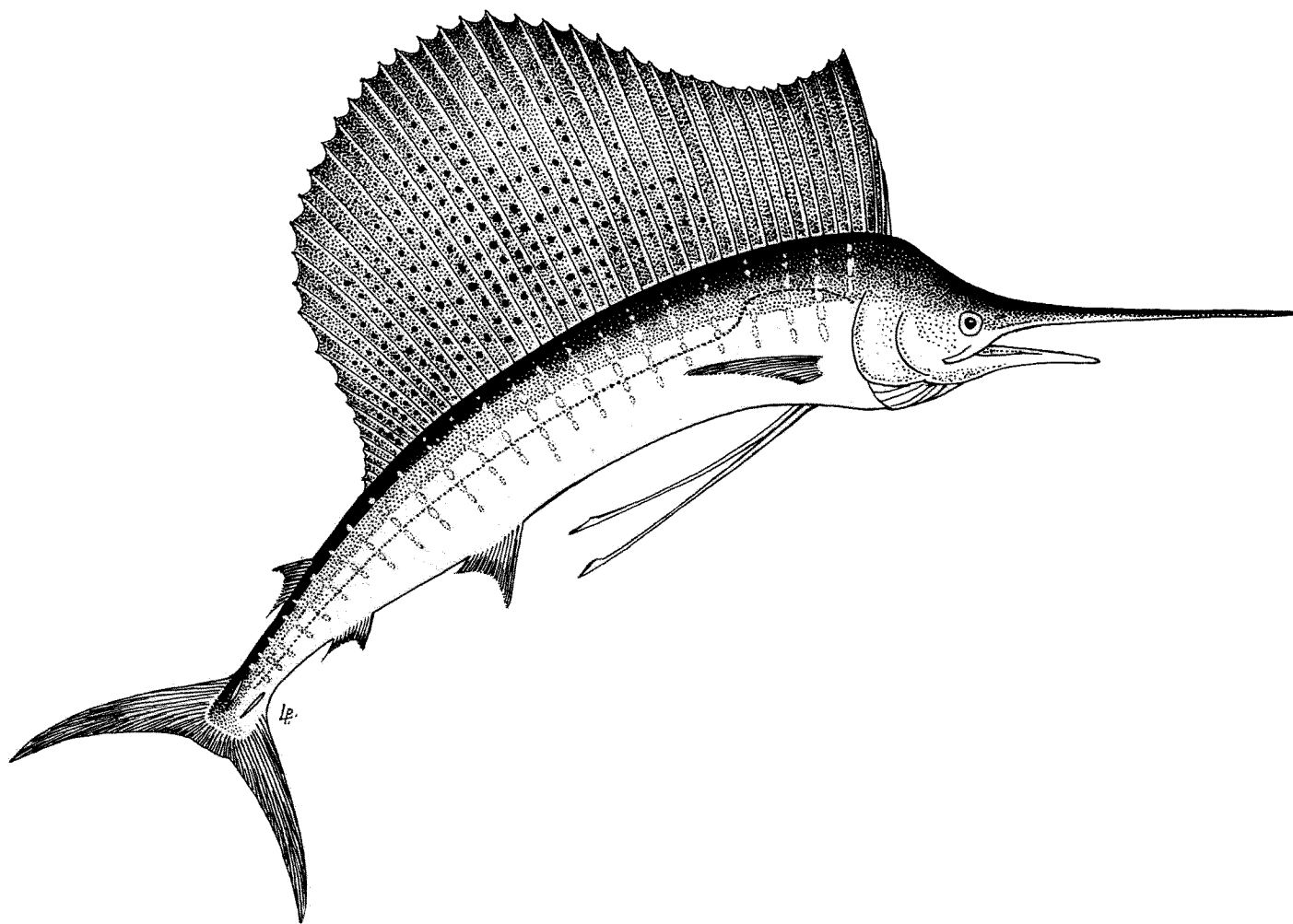




FAO SPECIES CATALOGUE

VOL. 5. BILLFISHES OF THE WORLD

AN ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE
OF MARLINS, SAILFISHES, SPEARFISHES
AND SWORDFISHES KNOWN TO DATE



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VOL. 5 BILLFISHES OF THE WORLD

An Annotated and Illustrated Catalogue

of Marlins, Sailfishes, Spearfishes and Swordfishes Known to date

prepared by

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"Then the fish came alive, with his dead in him, and rose high out of the water showing all his power and his beauty. He seemed to hang in the air above the old man in the skiff. Then he fell into the water with a crash that sent spray over the old man and over all of the skiff" (from The Old Man and the Sea, by Ernest Hemingway). I do hope for the eternal prosperity of these beautiful and powerful animals in our water planet.

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The present publication was prepared under the FAO Regular Programme with the support of the United Nations Development Programme as part of the UNDP/FAO Global Project on Survey and Identification of the World's Marine Fishery Resources (GLO/82/001). It is the fifth worldwide species catalogue issued under the FAO Fisheries Synopses series.

The author is one of the foremost authorities on billfish taxonomy (see Nakamura, I., 1983) and has also had a long field experience on the biology and fisheries of these species. He has prepared, in the course of the past seven years, all FAO species identification sheets so far published on this group (Western Central Atlantic, Eastern Central Atlantic and Western Indian Ocean).

The index of scientific and vernacular names was prepared in collaboration with FAO's Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Service.

Most illustrations were redrawn from draft material provided by the author.

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Illustrators: P. Lastrico (principal illustrator) and O. Lidonnici, FAO, Rome

ABSTRACT

This is the fifth in the FAO series of worldwide annotated and illustrated catalogues of major groups of organisms that enter marine fisheries. The present volume includes the two families and all 12 species of billfishes known so far. It provides a comprehensive and illustrated key to families and species, with a glossary of technical terms and measurements. Within each family are given individual accounts of species which include drawings, scientific and vernacular names, information on habitat, biology and fisheries, and a distribution map. The section including family and species accounts is followed by a table indicating the distribution of each species by major marine fishing areas. The work is fully indexed and there is ample reference to pertinent literature.

Distribution:

Author
FAO Fisheries Department
FAO Regional Fisheries Officers
Regional Fisheries Councils
and Commissions
Selector SM

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