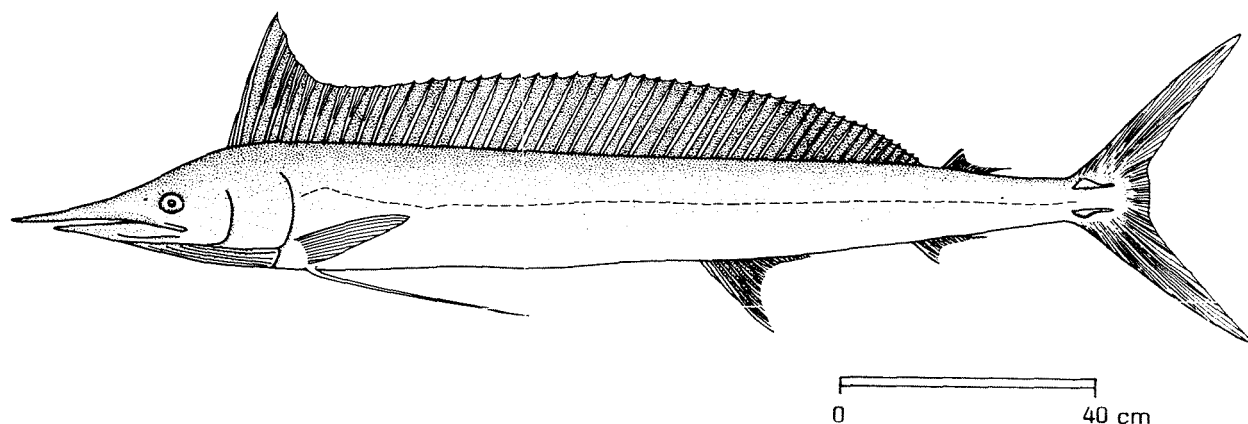


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ISTIOPHORIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Oceani)Tetrapturus angustirostris Tanaka, 1915

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Shortbill spearfish
 Fr - Makaïre à rostre court
 Sp - Marlin trompa corta

NATIONAL:



scales

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, much compressed. Upper jaw prolonged into a short spear; nape not elevated. Two dorsal fins, the first long (47 to 50 rays), its posterior part rather high throughout its length; second dorsal fin small, with 6 or 7 rays; height of anterior part of first dorsal fin slightly greater than body depth; two separated anal fins with 12 to 15 (1st) and 6 or 7 (2nd) rays respectively; pectoral fins short with 18 or 19 rays; pelvic fins longer than pectoral fins, with 1 spine and 2 soft rays; tip of first dorsal, first anal and pectoral fins pointed. Lateral line single, visible, curved above pectoral fin, then almost straight to tail. Anus well in front of origin of first anal fin. Body covered with densely embedded scales, each elongate ending in several points. Vertebrae 24 (12 + 12).

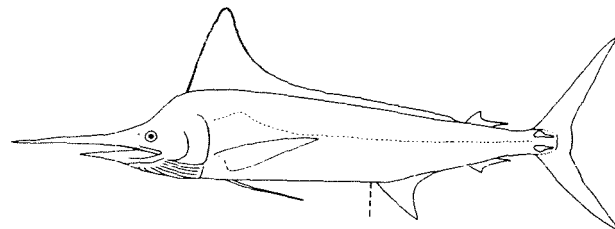
Colour: body dark blue dorsally, brownish silvery white laterally, silvery white ventrally; first dorsal fin membrane blue-black without spots; other fins brown-black; no bars or spots on body.

DISTINGUISHNG CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

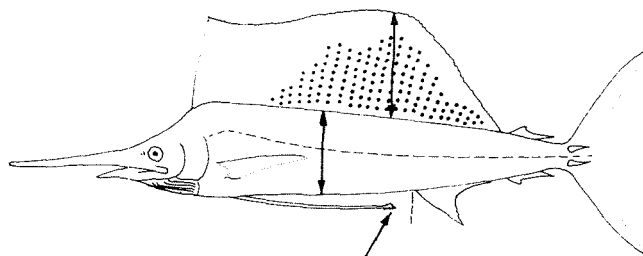
Tetrapturus audax: upper jaw long; first dorsal fin low posteriorly; anus close to origin of first anal fin; pectoral fins long, longer than pelvic fins in larger specimens, slightly shorter than pelvics in small specimens.

Makaira species: upper jaw long and stout; height of anterior part of dorsal fin lower than body depth; pectoral fins long; pelvic fins shorter than pectoral fins; body less compressed; anus close to origin of first anal fin; nape elevated.

Istiophorus platypterus: upper jaw long; first dorsal fin large and sail-like with many small black spots; anus close to origin of first anal fin; pectoral fins long; pelvic fin very long almost reaching to anus.



Tetrapturus audax



Istiophorus platypterus

SIZE:

Maximum: about 2.3 m (total length); common to 1.9 m (total length).

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout tropical and subtropical (sometimes temperate) waters of the Indian and Pacific oceans. Chiefly distributed in oceanic waters, seldom approaching the shore.

Highly oceanic, migratory and epipelagic, usually above the thermocline.

Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

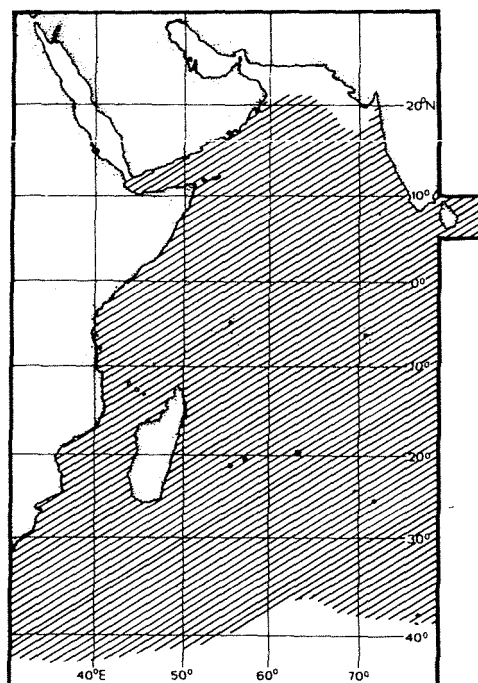
Commercial longline fishing grounds in oceanic areas of the Pacific Ocean but caught as bycatch when fishing with longlines for other billfishes and tunas.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught as bycatch of commercial longlines.

Marketed mostly frozen, prepared as fish cakes and sashimi (sliced raw fish) in Japan. Flesh not as good as that of other istiophorids.

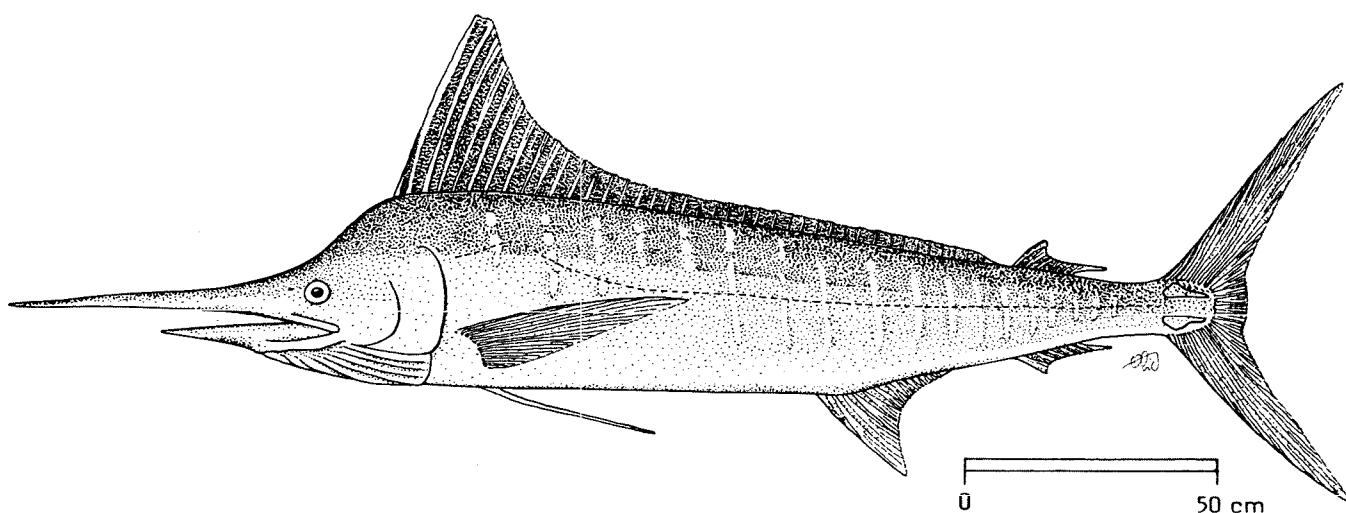


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ISTIOPHORIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Tetrapturus audax (Philippi, 1887)

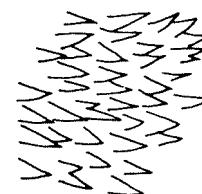
OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : Tetrapturus mitsukurii Jordan & Snyder, 1901
Makaira mitsukurii (Jordan & Snyder, 1901)
Makaira audax (Philippi, 1887)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Striped marlin
 Fr - Marlin rayé
 Sp - Marlin rayado

NATIONAL :



scales

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, compressed. Upper jaw prolonged into a spear. Two dorsal fins, the first low posteriorly, with 37 to 42 rays, the second small, with 6 rays; height of anterior part of first dorsal fin slightly higher than body depth; two separate anal fins, with 13 to 18 (1st) and 5 or 6 (2nd) rays, respectively; pectoral fins falcate, with 18 to 22 rays; pelvic fins shorter than pectoral fins in larger specimens, slightly longer than pectoral fins in smaller specimens, with one spine and 2 soft rays. Lateral line visible, curved above pectoral fin, then almost straight to tail. Anus close to origin of first anal fin. Body covered with densely embedded scales, each with one, or sometimes two acute points. Vertebrae 24 (12 + 12).

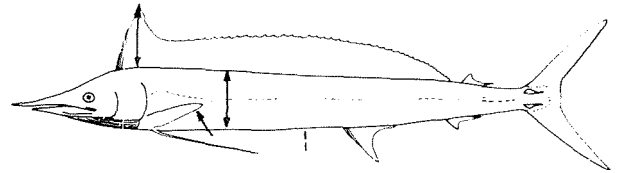
Colour: body dark blue dorsally, silvery white ventrally; first dorsal fin membrane blue black; other fins brown black; about 20 vertical bars, each consisting of several small pale blue spots or lines on body.

DISTINGUISHNG CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

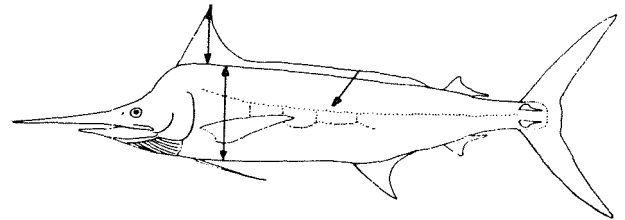
Tetrapturus angustirostris: first dorsal fin rather high throughout; snout short; pectoral fins short; anus apart from origin of first anal fin.

Makaira species: height of anterior part of dorsal fin lower than body depth; body less compressed. Furthermore, lateral line system with simple loops in M. mazara and pectoral fins rigid, not folded back against side of body in M. indica.

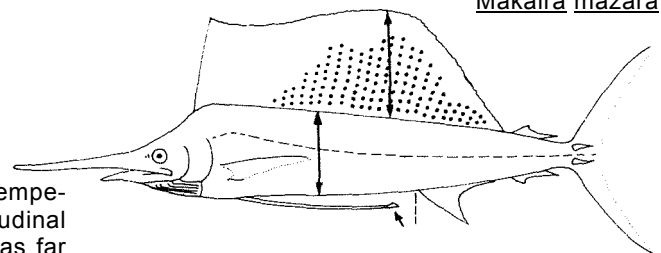
Istiophorus platypterus: first dorsal fin large and sail-like with many small black spots; pelvic fins very long, almost reaching to anus.



Tetrapturus angustirostris



Makaira mazara



Istiophorus platypterus

SIZE:

Maximum: about 3.4 m (total length); common to 2.9 m (total length).

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout tropical and subtropical (sometimes temperate) waters of the Indian and Pacific oceans. The latitudinal limits are about 45° N to 35° -40° S in the Pacific Ocean, as far south as 45° S in the Southwestern Indian Ocean, and 35° S in the Southeastern Indian Ocean. In the area, densely distributed in the Arabian Sea, around Sri Lanka and in the Mozambique Channel.

Oceanic, highly migratory and epipelagic, usually above the thermocline.

Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Good commercial fishing grounds in the Arabian Sea and Mozambique Channel.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

The reported catches in Fishing Area 51 totalled about 1100 t in 1981.

Caught mainly by commercial longlines and by trolling (sports fishermen).

Marketed mostly fresh, frozen, prepared as sashimi (sliced raw fish) in Japan. Flesh excellent among istiophorids.

