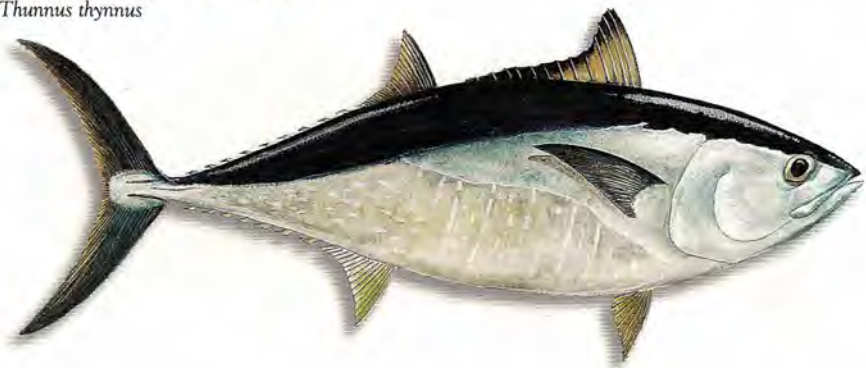


Bluefin Tuna

Thunnus thynnus



OTHER NAMES:

Giant Tuna Horse Mackerel

RANGE: *Now rarely encountered, some Giant Bluefins still migrate along the continental shelf of the Northern and Eastern Gulf, then through the Straits of Florida and northward past the Bahamas.*

HABITAT: *The deep sea.*

DESCRIPTION: The best identifier is huge size, since small Bluefins are seldom encountered by Gulf anglers. The massive body is dark blue above, shading to silvery on the lower sides. All fins and finlets are steely blue.

SIZE: Historically, the average has been from about 200 to about 600 pounds; presently, most run over 500 pounds and may push 900. Increasing size is indicative of declining stock.

FOOD VALUE: Too good for its own good. Commercial exploitation has nearly ruined the stocks.

GAME QUALITIES: The toughest of all fish to fight and land; has size, speed and stamina in boundless quantity.

TACKLE AND BAITS: Heaviest sporting outfits with lines testing 80 or 130 pounds. Rigged swimming baits, such as large Mullet or Mackerel, or same baits in combination with large feathers. Also, offshore trolling lures.

FISHING SYSTEMS: Trolling.