

ID guide to large tunas of New Zealand



Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*)

Pectoral fins (1) short, less than head length; top front of the body cavity has a prominent bulge (when gills and gut removed).

Coloration: dark blue back transitioning into lighter blue with dark fins; lower sides and belly mainly silver, faint vertical lines or dots fading on death; caudal keel (2) pale or yellow but may be darker in large fish. Attains 220 cm length and 165 kg in weight.



Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)



Pectoral fins (1) short, less than head length; top front of the body cavity has a small narrow bulge (when gills and gut removed). New Zealand's largest growing tuna attaining over 300 cm fork length and 400 kg weight.

Coloration: dark blue back transitioning into lighter blue with dark fins; may have spots on the head (2); 2nd dorsal fin (3) reddish-brown; caudal keel (4) at base of the tail dark; lower sides (5) and belly silver with consistent spots and faint vertical lines; anal fin (6) silver edged with black.



Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*)



Colouration in New Zealand caught Pacific bluefin tuna can be variable with spots or mottled colours above the anal fin to the tail (7).





Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

Eye (1) large and moderately long pectoral fins (2) reaching the base of the second dorsal fin. Deep bodied tuna with wide girth (3) back to the anal fin. Can attain 250 cm fork length and 195 kg weight.

Coloration: dark blue back transitioning through iridescent blue to yellow fading on death. Finlets (4) yellow edged with black.

