**Commonly Confused Mackerel & Tuna Species**

**Atlantic mackerel, Scomber scombrus**
- Other common names: tinker mackerel, Boston mackerel, common mackerel
- Up to 2 feet
- Usually has a broken faint to dark stripe along sides below wavy bars on upper body
- Height of the scaled area under the second dorsal fin is 1-5 scales
- VTR CODE: MACK

**Chub mackerel, Scomber colias**
- Other common names: tinker mackerel, hardhead, bullseye
- Up to 22 inches
- Stripes on upper body less defined than in Atlantic mackerel
- No spots on lower sides
- VTR CODE: MACC

**Frigate mackerel/tuna, Auxis thazard**
- Up to 2 feet
- Height of the scaled area under the second dorsal fin is 1-5 scales
- Pectoral fins extend past beginning of scaleless, striped area on upper body
- VTR CODE: MACF

**Bullet mackerel/tuna, Auxis rochei**
- Up to 20 inches
- Height of the scaled area under the second dorsal fin is 10-15 scales
- Pectoral fins do not reach past the scaleless, striped area on upper body
- VTR CODE: MACB
Atlantic bonito, *Sarda sarda*
- Up to 3.2 feet
- Body covered in scales; larger scales below striped area
- Sharp teeth

VTR CODE: BON

**Straight, oblique stripes on upper body sometimes underlain with lighter vertical bars**

Little tunny, *Euthynnus alletteratus*
- Other common names: false albacore, vaquita, bonito
- Up to 3.5 feet
- No sharp teeth

VTR CODE: LTA

**Dorsal fins connected (not clearly visible in picture)**

Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*
- Up to 3.8 feet
- No scales on upper striped area

VTR CODE: SKJ

**Small space between 1st & 2nd dorsal fins**

For more information, contact:
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