

Maldives Tuna Tagging Manual

Illustrations

Extracting otoliths from skipjack tuna



a. Saw off the head of the frozen skipjack



b. Saw off the top of the head

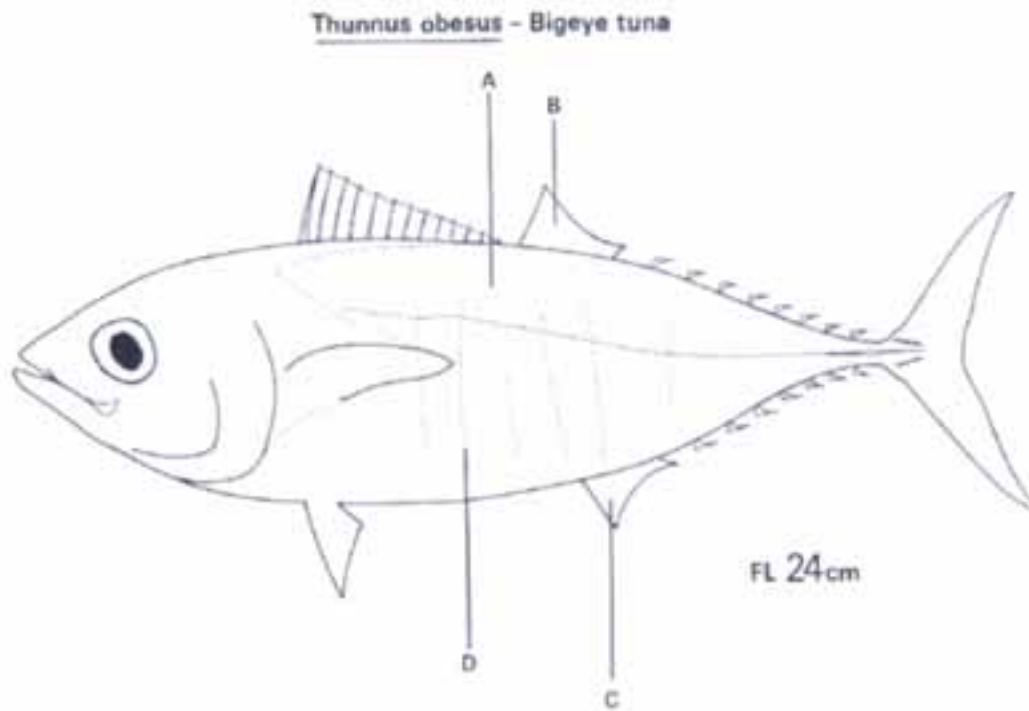


c. Skipjack head with top removed – leave to thaw



d. Remove hind-brain to locate otoliths

Identification of bigeye tuna



Juvenile bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

A – Small scales on body

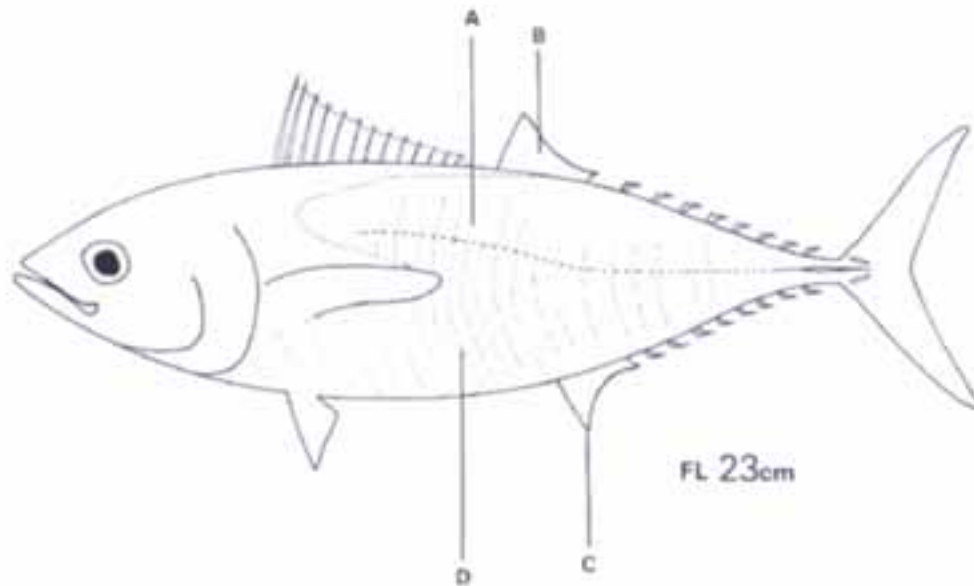
B – Bright yellow, with white and black anterior border

C – Silvery with yellowish tinge. Short, less than 2 times orbit width

D – White stripes on side usually vertical; stripes appear in an unbroken line; 7-10 stripes

Source: Yesaki (1984)

Thunnus albacares - Yellowfin tuna



Juvenile yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

A – Small scales on body

B – Bright yellow, with white and black anterior border

C – Silvery with yellowish tinge. Short, less than 2 times orbit width

D – White stripes on side usually curve backwards towards the ventral side. Stripes appear alternately in an unbroken line and in a chain of dots. 11 to 17 stripes

After Yesaki (1984)



Livers of yellowfin tuna (left) and bigeye tuna (right)