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hearing and speech. Recent studies have documented that marlin caught in Australia have an average mercury level of 4.08 ppm and marlin caught in the Gulf of Mexico may contain mercury levels 20-30% higher than what is recommended. Another independent study even reported mercury levels as high as 15 ppm in large individuals.

However, mercury levels alone are not the only safety indicator when consuming fish. Recent research has also exposed that high selenium levels in fish

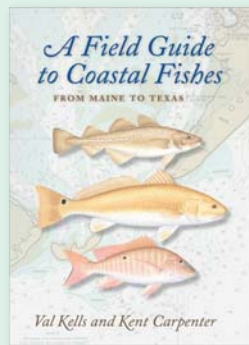
The United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov) has reported that any fish with a mercury level greater than 1.5 parts per million (ppm) should not be consumed in any amount.

may offset mercury's harmful effects. Selenium has the uncanny ability to bind with mercury, which in turn blocks it from binding with the brain and other tissue. Much has been said in the seafood industry about selenium's ability to counteract mercury, but a determining factor is the ratio between the two elements. It turns out that fish having high mercury:selenium ratio levels pose less of a health risk than those that have low ratio levels. For example, fish such as red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) and cod (*Gadus morhua*) have relatively high ratio levels. Marlin, on the other hand, have been shown to have some of the lowest measured ratio levels, providing further evidence that they should not be consumed for health reasons.

For more information visit:
www.takemarlinoffthemenue.org

NEW FISH IDENTIFICATION RESOURCE FOR ANGLERS:

A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes from Maine to Texas



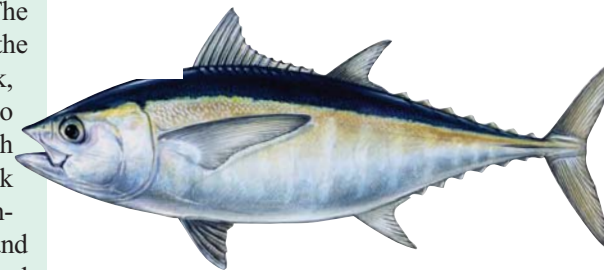
Identifying the fish you catch isn't always easy. Fortunately, there is a new field guide that can help anglers fishing in the United States anywhere from northern Maine in the Atlantic to southern Texas in the Gulf of Mexico. Illustrated by famed marine science illustrator, Val Kells, and co-authored by internationally acclaimed ichthyologist, Kent Carpenter, *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes from Maine to Texas* is a must for anyone fishing the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the U.S. The 448-page book contains large full-color illustrations for 937 species from 76 different families that can be found from the water's edge out to 200 meters deep. The species covered range in size from the world's largest fish, the whale shark, which may reach 50 feet in length, to several goby species that barely reach one inch at maximum size. The book also features a short primer on fish identification that discusses color patterns and anatomical features of cartilaginous and bony fishes. The section devoted to fish families gives a brief overview of the key characteristics specific to each family as well as fish silhouettes representing the generalized shape of species in each family. In short it is a great reference for the coffee table, boat or tackle box.

RAISING TUNA IN A TANK CLOSE TO REALITY



Sasa Miralao feeds 20 lb cobia being raised at the aquaculture project at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science on Virginia Key, Florida. Cobia can grow to more than 130 lb. Miralao is the food stock manager on the project.

That seared, sushi or blackened tuna on your plate may be cheaper some time in the future because of the work of a group of aquaculture scientists at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School on Virginia Key, Florida. Led by Dan Benetti, director of the school's fish farming program, the researchers are poised to be the first to raise blackfin tuna successfully in a tank — a major step in proving the commercial viability of farming tuna species worldwide. "It is the first and only blackfin aquaculture facility in the world," Benetti pronounced. "We are using this as a model species for developing techniques for tuna aquaculture."



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But first, the scientists have to get some of the 100 or so silvery-black footballs swimming around in their tanks to spawn successfully. "Any day now," Benetti said confidently. "We've got their number." Worldwide, success in