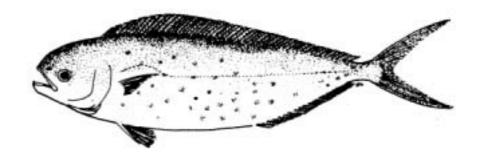
Coryphaena equiselis Linnaeus, 1758



English Name: Pompano dolphinfish Family: CORYPHAENIDAE

Local Name: Aila **Order:** Perciformes Size: Common to 50cm; max. 75 cm Specimen: MRS/01 18/87

Distinctive Characters: Single dorsal fin usually with 52-59 rays. Anal fin with 23-29 rays. Pectoral with 18-21 rays. Body depth more than 25% of standard length. Anal fin with convex outline. Pectoral fin about half of head length.

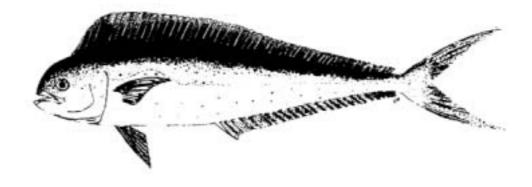
Colour: Back metallic blue-green in life. Grey after death. Sides silvery with black spots. Juveniles with white edged caudal fin.

Habitat and Biology: Pelagic, inhabits in open waters but also approaches the coasts. Probably resembles *C. hipppurus* in following ships and forming aggregations. Feeds on small fishes and squids.

Distribution: Oceanic, in most tropical and subtropical waters.

Remarks: Coryphaena equiselis is much rarer than, but so similar to C. hippurus (next page) that it has probably been confused with that species. C. hippurus has a more elongated body (less than 25% of standard length) and its pectoral fin is Yonger than half its head length.

Coryphaena hippurus Linnaeus, 1758



English Name: Common dolphinfish Family: CORYPHAENIDAE

Local Name: Fiyala Order: Perciformes
Size: Common to | m; max. 2 m Specimen: MRS/0051/86

Distinctive Characters: Single dorsal fin usually with 5 8-67 rays. Anal fin with 25-30 rays. Pectoral with 17-20 rays. Body depth less than 25% of standard length. Body elongate and compressed. Anal fin with concave outline. Pectoral fin more than half of head length.

Colour: Back brilliant metallic blue-green, shading to golden yellow ventrally with scattered iridescent blue-green spots. Dorsal fin deep blue-green. Caudal, anal and pelvic fins mainly yellow. Brilliant colours fade to silvery grey with black spots and dark fins soon after death.

Habitat and Biology: Pelagic, inhabits open waters but also approaches the coasts. Follows ships and forms aggregations below floating objects. Feeds mainly on fish, but also crustaceans and squids.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: *Coryphaena hipparus* is much more common and larger than the closely related *C. equiselis* (previous page). The common dolphinfish is a renowned game fish caught mainly by trolling a lure near the surface.

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