

BLACK MARLIN

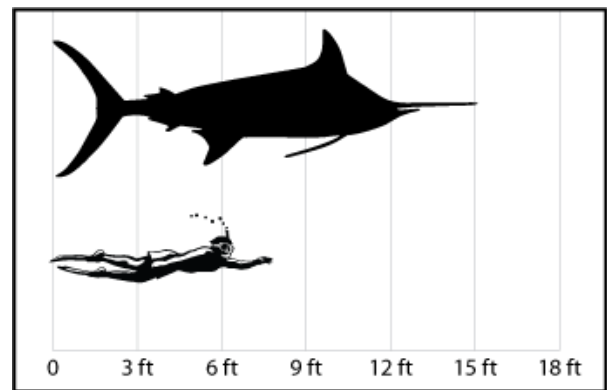
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Predator Power

Black marlin can migrate great distances. One individual was recorded to have traveled 9,045 miles (14,556 km) across the Pacific Ocean from Australia to the Pacific coast of Costa Rica.



Billfish Basics

Diet: small tunas, squid, cuttlefish and crustaceans

Size: Up to 15 feet (4.6 m) and 1650 pounds (750 kg)

Lifespan: Up to 25 years

Range and Habitat:

Black marlin inhabit the tropical and subtropical waters of the Indo-Pacific, occasionally entering temperate waters. They are usually found in warmer surface waters close to land masses, islands, and coral reefs.



Granders

Sport fishermen relish the opportunity to encounter a “grander.” Granders are female marlin that weigh over one thousand pounds. These mothers of the ocean are capable of producing 100 million eggs (a 300 pound female produces just 30 million eggs), making them invaluable to the survival of their species. Sadly encounters with granders are becoming less and less common as indiscriminant fishing gear like longlines and driftnets take their toll on billfish populations. Many anglers voluntarily release marlin. In areas where marlin are landed, scientists advocate for the use of slot limits. Slot limits require that a fish fall between a minimum and maximum size limit in order to be landed, protecting immature fish as well as the large breeders.

for more info, visit <http://www.takemarlinoffthemenu.org>