

WHITE MARLIN

Kajikia albidus



photo by Dominic Sherony

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/9765210@N03>

Predator Power

The majority of prey items found in the stomachs of white marlin do not have slash marks, indicating that they often overtake their prey by speed rather than having to injure it first.

Billfish Basics

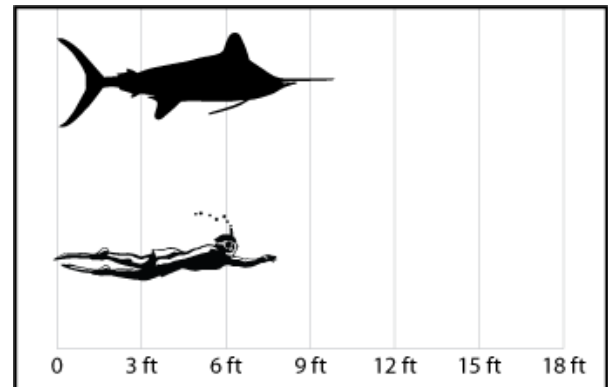
Diet: squid, herring, mackerel, sardines, and jacks

Size: Up to 10 feet (3.0 m) and 181 pounds (82 kg)

Lifespan: Up to 18 years

Range and Habitat:

Only occurring in the Atlantic, white marlin spend most their time in the warm (over 72°F) surface waters of the deep open ocean. During warm seasons, they will frequent higher latitudes in both the northern and southern hemispheres.



Foraging in Deep Water

Herring and squid, the preferred prey of white marlin, dwell in deep water during the day when marlin are actively feeding. While white marlin do spend the majority of their time in the upper 30 feet of the water column, they frequently make short dives to depths of 200 feet or more to forage. This behavior explains the high rate of white marlin bycatch on deep-set pelagic longlines targeting tuna. White marlin are the most depleted billfish in the Atlantic.

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