

# Tarpon (*megalops atlanticus*)



## Common Names

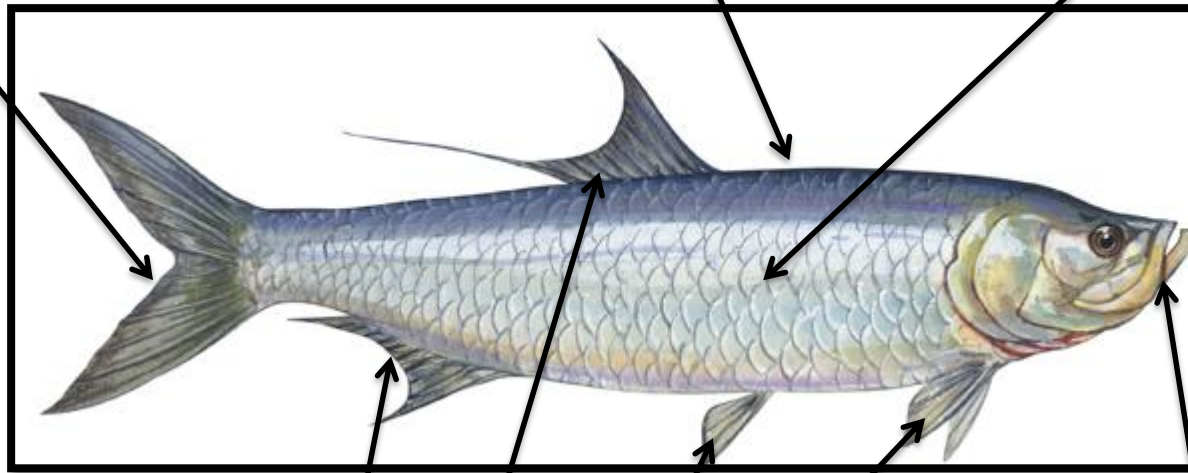
- Abalitsa
- Savanilla
- Bass
- Big Scale
- Atlantic Tarpon
- Silver King
- Jewfish
- Sabalo

# Physical Description

The tail (caudal) is deeply forked and both lobes appear equal in length

From above they appear dark blue or greenish black

The most distinctive feature of the tarpons is their large shiny silver scales on their sides.



All the fins of the tarpon are composed of small moveable joints (soft rays)

- The anal fin contains 22-15 soft rays
- The dorsal fin contains 13-15 soft rays
- The pelvic and pectoral fins contain 13-14 soft rays

The lower jaw (mandible) of a tarpons is large and extending far beyond the opening of the mouth (gape)

# Global Distribution of Tarpons



*Image retrieved from: <http://www.flyandspinfishingaruba.com/info/tarpon/>*

# Tarpon Distribution in Belize

