



Atlantic Needlefish

Strongylura marina



Description:

- ◆ long, narrow body
- ◆ green above with silvery sides
- ◆ adults have a thin bluish stripe along each side
- ◆ dorsal and anal fins are set towards back of body just before tail
- ◆ pectoral fins are small and set high on the sides
- ◆ lower jaw extends beyond upper
- ◆ elongated jaws with sharp teeth

Size:

- ◆ up to 24 inches

Range:

- ◆ Maine and northern Gulf of Mexico to Brazil

Facts:

- ◆ found in coastal waters, bays and estuaries
- ◆ generally nocturnal and actively feed at night
- ◆ feed mostly on shrimp and small fish, like peanut bunker and silversides
- ◆ spends a lot of time near the surface
- ◆ jump out of water chasing small fish
- ◆ drawn to light, therefore they congregate near piers and bridges
- ◆ spawn late spring to summer
- ◆ females release thread-like eggs that sink and stick to each other



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