



Green Sunfish

Lepomis cyanellus



Description:

- ◆ blue-green back and sides
- ◆ white to yellow belly
- ◆ often wavy lines on cheek and opercle
- ◆ short black ear flaps with a white to yellow edge
- ◆ yellow or orange edge on second dorsal, caudal and anal fins
- ◆ upper jaw extends beneath the pupil of the eye
- ◆ wider body than most sunfish
- ◆ 13-14 pectoral rays
- ◆ 9 anal rays

Size:

- ◆ average length is 5-6 inches

Range:

- ◆ Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins from New York and Ontario to
- ◆ Minnesota and South Dakota and south to the Gulf of Mexico; Gulf of Mexico slope
- ◆ Drainages from Escambia River, Florida and Mobile Bay, Georgia and Alabama to Rio Grande in Texas

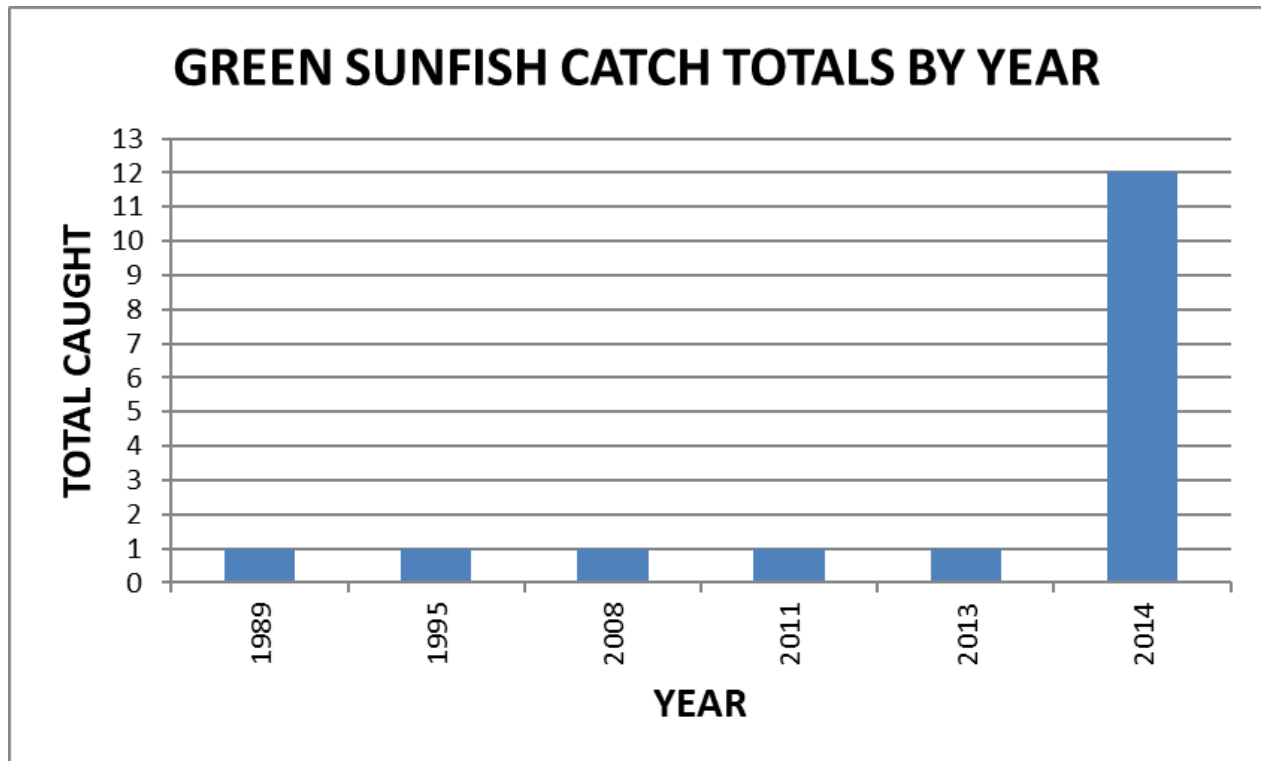
Facts:

- ◆ usually live 4-6 years in the wild
- ◆ males build nests with gravel and guard for 5-7 days after eggs hatch
- ◆ eat small fish, fish eggs, insects and crayfish
- ◆ tolerant to poor water quality
- ◆ readily hybridize with other species of sunfish
- ◆ like to hide around rocks, logs, or brush piles



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*green sunfish were only caught during the years shown

The green sunfish is considered an invasive species

For more information, please visit this website:

http://njfishandwildlife.org/aquatic_invasives.htm