

# Weakfish



**Young-of-Year Weakfish**



**Mature Weakfish**

Despite a few high catches in recent years, the overall number of weakfish caught during the Delaware Bay Trawl has been decreasing since 1999. Peaks were reached that year, when the average number per tow was 54 fish. The lowest average was in 1993, with 3 fish per tow. The drop to an average of 22 fish per tow during 2006 could have been due to the fact that 2006 was a year of severe flooding. Because of an above average influx of freshwater into the bay, the weakfish most likely moved into regions with higher salinities. The largest weakfish was caught in 2005, and had a fork length of 705 mm (28.2 inches).

