

Atlantic Menhaden

Brevoortia tyrannus

Description:

- ❖ Silvery fish with dark bluish green back
- ❖ Pale yellow fins
- ❖ Very deep body with deeply forked tail
- ❖ Dark spot behind gill cover followed by a series of lighter spots

Size:

- ❖ Up to 14 inches

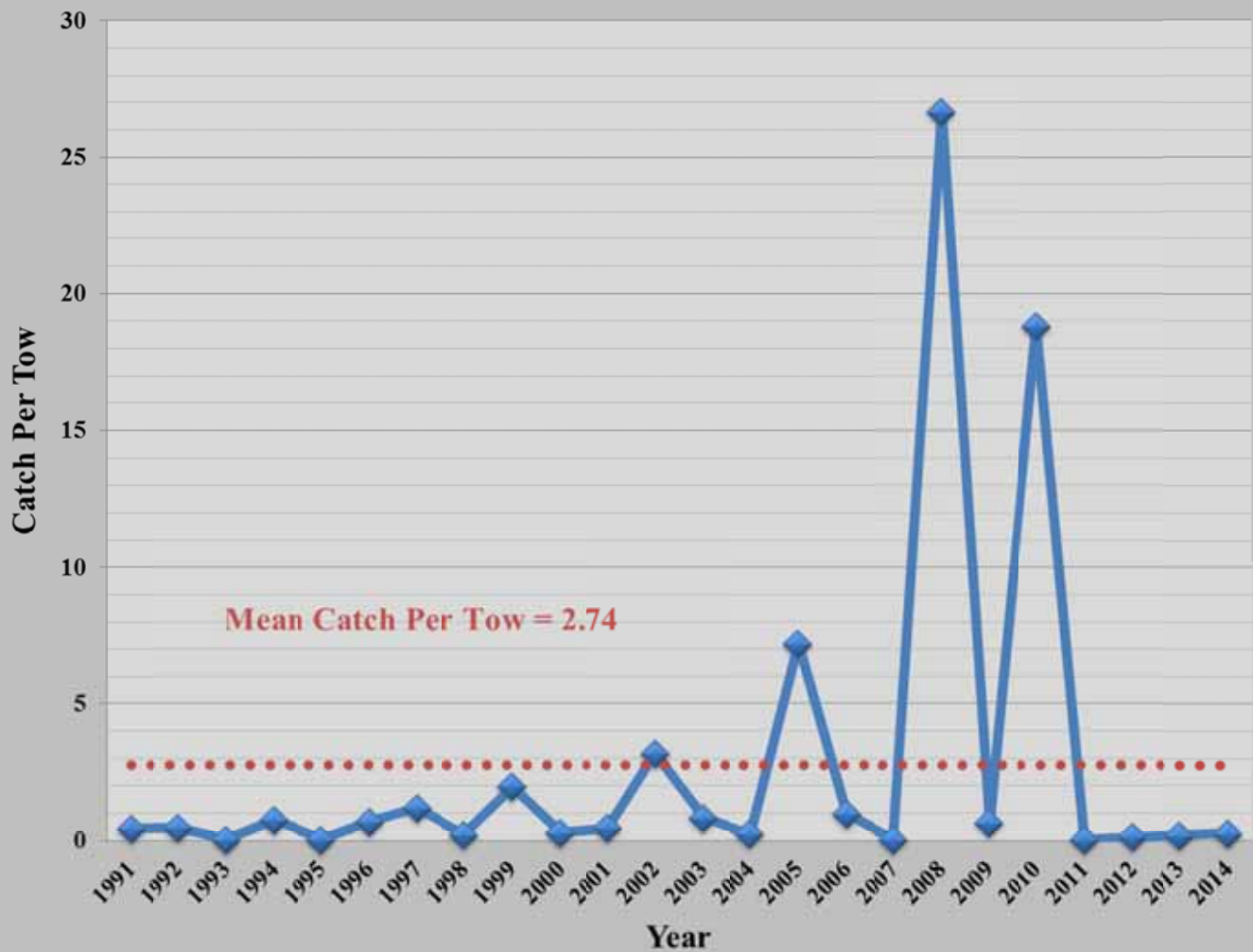
Range:

- ❖ Nova Scotia to Florida

Facts:

- ❖ Spawn in the ocean but young will spend first year in estuaries
- ❖ Schooling behavior and abundance make them the perfect food source for large populations of top predator fish like striped bass
- ❖ Important for filtering coastal waters due to large numbers of algae they consume

Atlantic Menhaden Abundance - Delaware Bay Trawl 1991-2014



For more information about Atlantic menhaden, please check out this article:

Atlantic Menhaden: A Profile

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2003/digmar8-13.pdf>

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

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www.NJFishandWildlife.com