



## NORTHERN KINGFISH

*Menticirrhus saxatilis*

### **Description:**

- ◇ dark angular bands vertically along sides
- ◇ long spine on first dorsal fin
- ◇ single barbel on lower jaw
- ◇ lack canine teeth
- ◇ dark bar at nape forms 'V' with first bar on body
- ◇ gray brown above with silvery sides

### **Size:**

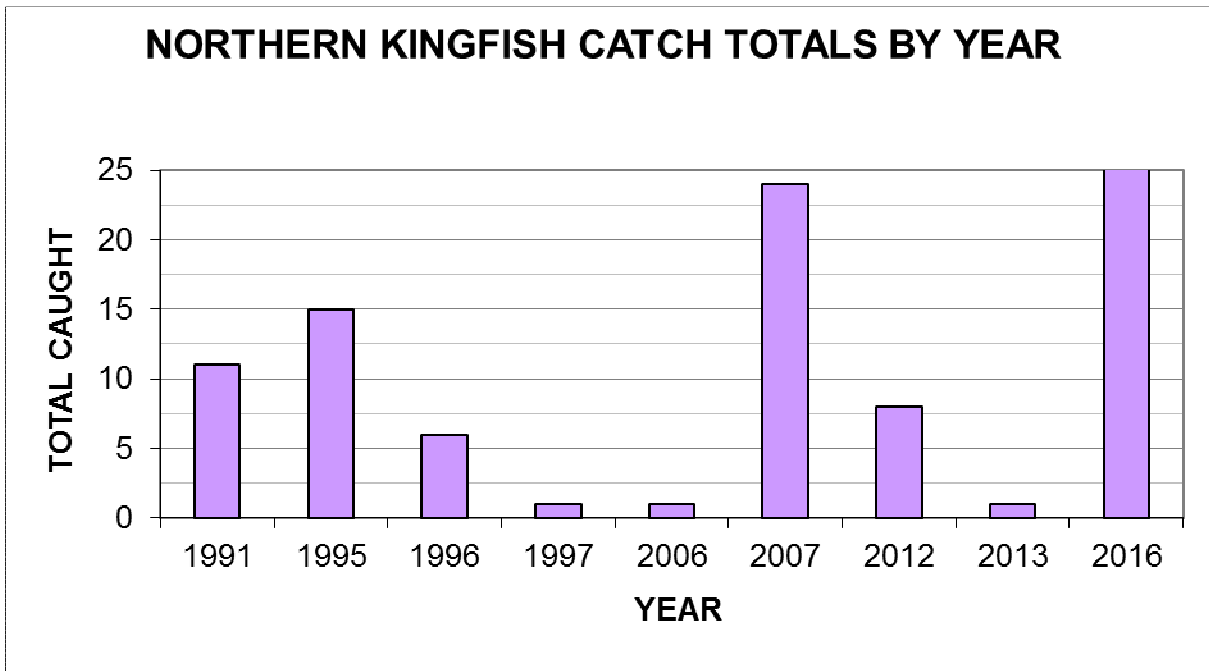
- ◇ up to 18 inches

### **Range:**

- ◇ Massachusetts to southern Florida and Gulf of Mexico to Yucatan

### **Facts:**

- ◇ prefer shallow coastal waters
- ◇ bottom feeders
- ◇ average lifespan is up to 4 years
- ◇ lack swim bladder, so they don't make croaking sounds like other species in the drum family
- ◇ spawn April to August
- ◇ eggs are released and float for 46 to 50 hours before hatching



\*Northern kingfish were only caught during the years shown

**For more information about Northern kingfish, please check out this article:**

Northern Kingfish: A Profile

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/artkingfish.htm>

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Bureau of Marine Fisheries  
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