



# Northern Pipefish

*Syngnathus fuscus*



## **Description:**

- ◆ long slender body
- ◆ tube-like snout
- ◆ body covered with rings of bony scales
- ◆ small fan-like tail
- ◆ olive brown above
- ◆ golden yellow below
- ◆ dark mottling all over body
- ◆ 36 to 39 dorsal fin rays
- ◆ 18 to 20 trunk rings
- ◆ 33 to 36 tail rings

## **Size:**

- ◆ up to 12 inches

## **Range:**

- ◆ Gulf of St. Lawrence to northeaster Florida
- ◆ Northwestern Gulf of Mexico

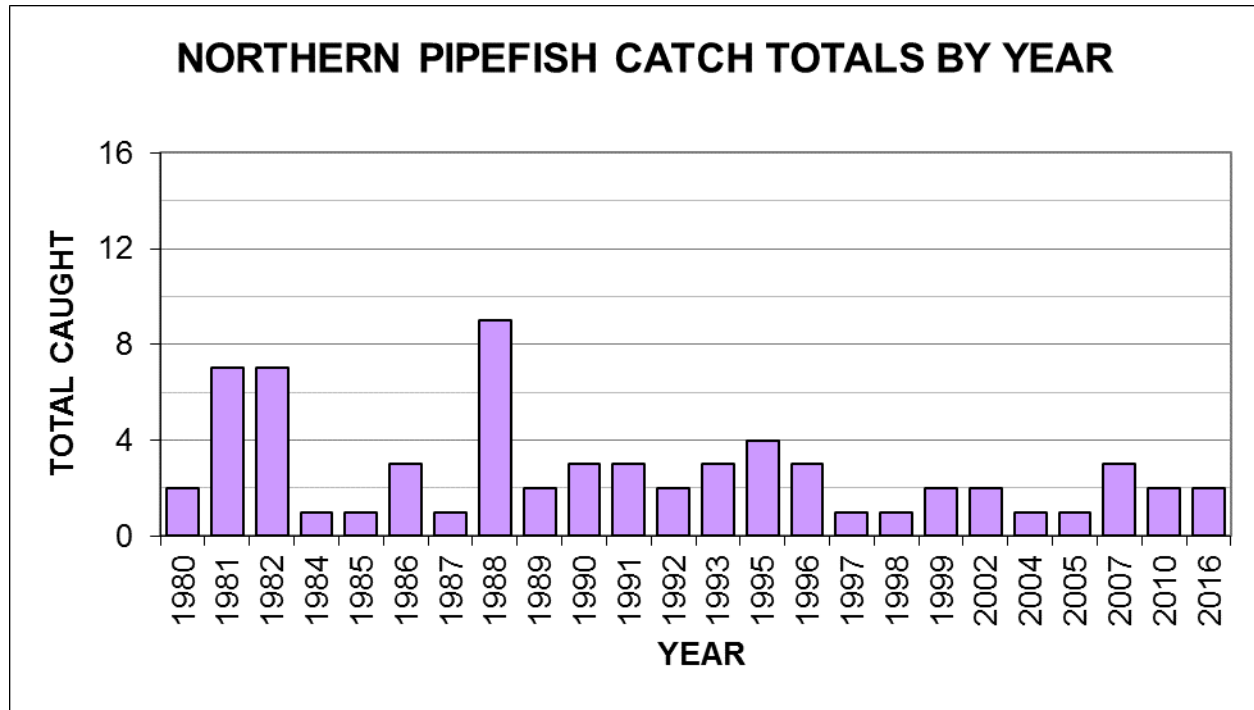
## **Facts:**

- ◆ prefer sea grass beds in bays and estuaries
- ◆ feed mainly on tiny crustaceans
- ◆ reproduce between April and October; peaking in May and June
- ◆ female transfers eggs to males' brood pouch, where they're fertilized and incubated
- ◆ eggs hatch in 14 days; males release fully formed young pipefish into the water
- ◆ closely related to seahorses
- ◆ avoid predators by 'standing' vertically in grass beds and swaying to mimic a blade of eel grass



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\*Northern pipefish were only caught during the years shown