



Southern Kingfish

Menticirrhus americanus



Description:

- ◆ grayish brown on top
- ◆ silvery sides
- ◆ 7-8 diagonal dusky bands or blotches on each side (obscure and never form V-shaped marks on the side)
- ◆ single short, stout barbel at tip of chin
- ◆ fins are dusky colored
- ◆ elongated body
- ◆ caudal fin has elongated lower lobe (appears 'S' shaped)

Facts:

- ◆ bottom feeders
- ◆ mainly an inshore and bay species
- ◆ juveniles found in estuaries with brackish or very low salinity waters
- ◆ spawning occurs in late spring and summer in near shore coastal waters
- ◆ uses chain barbel to locate bottom prey in estuaries and in the surf
- ◆ tolerate greater temperature and salinity ranges than the northern and gulf kingfish

Size:

- ◆ up to 15 inches and 2.5 pounds

Range:

- ◆ New York to Texas

SOUTHERN KINGFISH CATCH TOTALS

Year	Total
1993	8
2008	1
2012	2
2014	1
2016	87
2017	2
Grand Total	101

*Southern kingfish were only caught during the years shown