



Striped Bass

Morone saxatilis



Description:

- ◆ silvery body
- ◆ 7-8 horizontal black stripes on sides of fish
- ◆ 2 dorsal fins
- ◆ small teeth on tongue
- ◆ large mouth
- ◆ jaws extend backward to below the eye
- ◆ 2 prominent spines on gill covers

Size:

- ◆ up to 72 inches and 125 lbs

Range:

- ◆ St. Lawrence River, Canada to St. John's River, Florida northern Gulf of Mexico from western Florida to Louisiana

Facts:

- ◆ coastal, except during migration
- ◆ spawn in freshwater
- ◆ believed to live up to 30 years
- ◆ important food and game fish
- ◆ introduced to the Pacific coast of North America and many large reservoir impoundments in the US as a means to control gizzard shad populations and for recreational fishing
- ◆ feed most actively at dusk until dawn

Population Update:

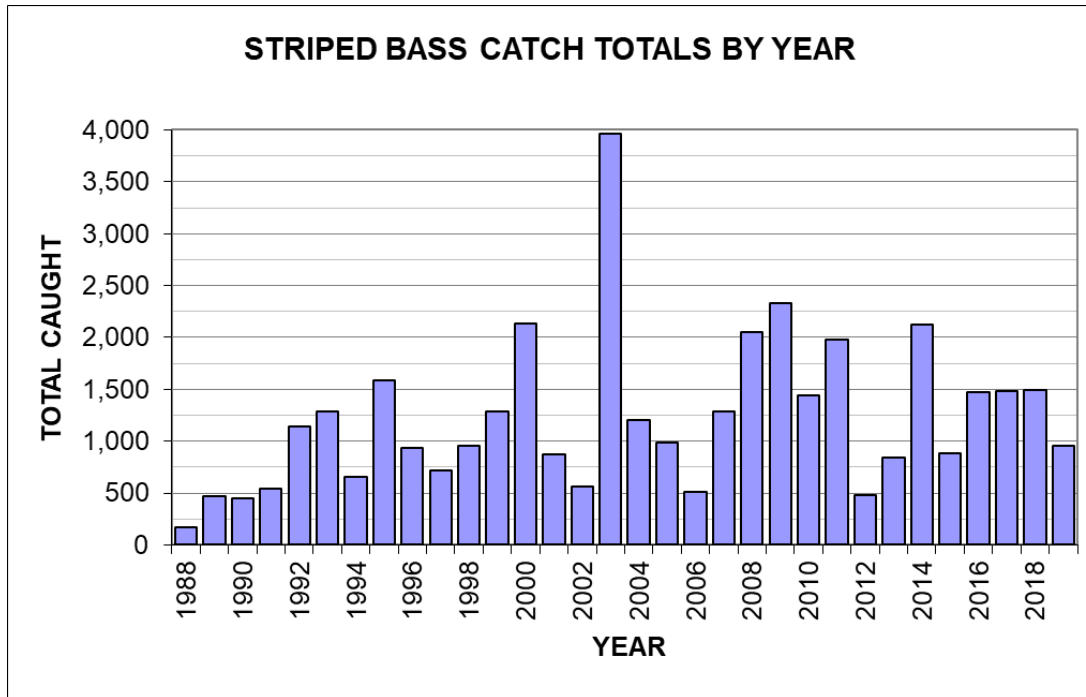
In 2003, the average number of striped bass caught per haul was 12 fish, a record year for this survey. The striped bass fishing moratorium in the 1980's allowed striped bass populations to bounce back rapidly and bass numbers have continually increased since the early 1990's.

With the improving health of the Delaware River, the striped bass population has seen recent increases in productivity. As the primary target species of this survey, in 2019 striped bass was the ninth most abundant fish caught. In total, 958 striped bass were caught and 841 of those were young-of-year (less than 1 year old). This is a positive reflection of the spawning success of this species in the Delaware estuary.



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*from 1980 to 1986, the largest catch was 32 fish in 1986

For more information about striped bass, please check out these articles:

Plugging for Stripers

Where has my fish traveled?

*click on link below and then scroll down to digest page 26

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2008/digmar20-30.pdf>

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2014/digmar22-30.pdf>

Stripers – Just How Old is That Fish?

Partnerships - Work in Fish Sampling Effort

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2002/digmar10-13.pdf>

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2011/digmar6-11.pdf>