



Tessellated Darter

Etheostoma olmstedi



Description:

- ◆ elongate; olive brown above with 6 dark saddles
- ◆ creamy white belly
- ◆ upper sides mottled with zigzags
- ◆ 9-11 dark mid-lateral 'X' and 'W' shaped markings
- ◆ large fins
- ◆ dorsal and caudal fins have thin, alternating dark and light bands

Size:

- ◆ up to 4.5 inches

Range:

- ◆ St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario drainages in south Quebec and southeast Ontario; Atlantic coast drainages to northeastern Florida (absent in Maine)

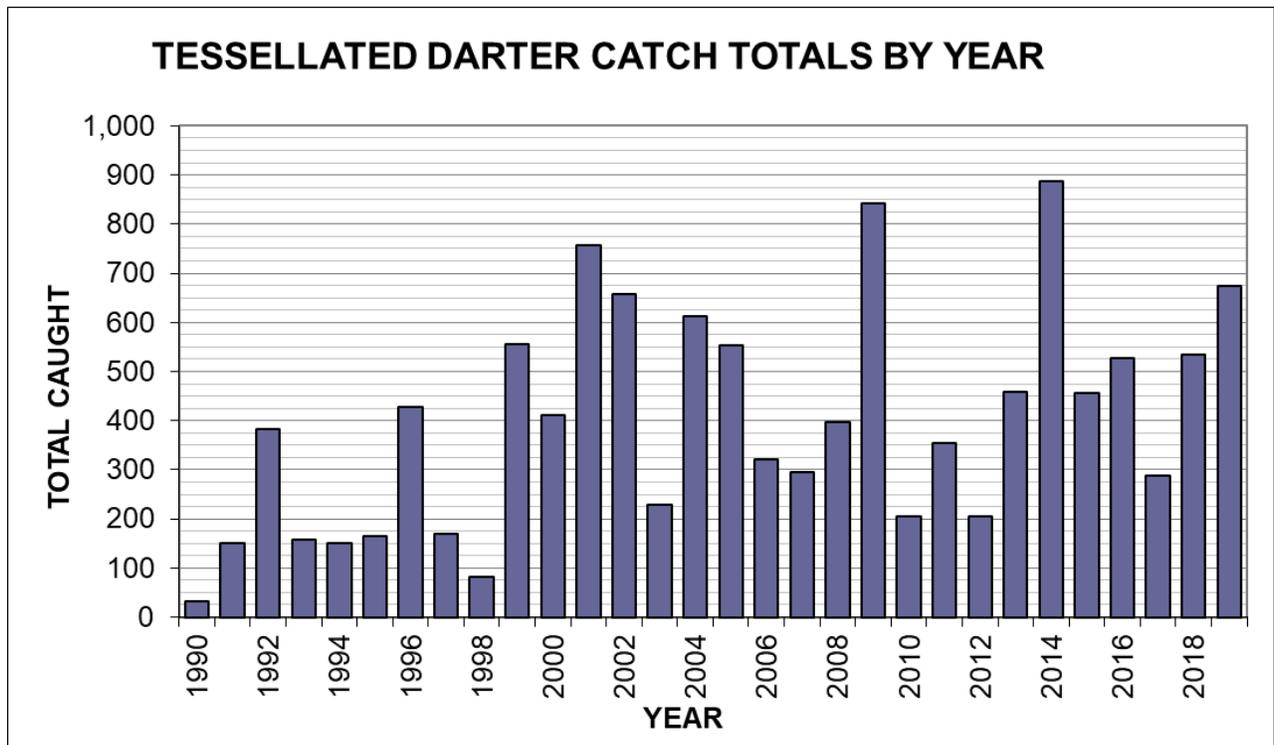
Facts:

- ◆ spawns in a nest cavity, usually under rocks or logs
- ◆ eggs are deposited in a single layer spanning 1-3 inches
- ◆ primarily eats algae, fish eggs, insects and crustaceans
- ◆ member of the perch family
- ◆ prefers sand or mud bottomed lakes, rivers, and streams



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*tessellated darters were only caught during the years shown