

Weakfish

Cynoscion regalis



Description:

- dark olive brown to bluish gray above
- silvery sides and white belly
- many small dark spots on back extending down to lateral line
- pelvic and anal fins yellow; other fins may have yellow tint
- lower jaw extends beyond upper jaw
- 2 large canines at front of upper jaw

Size:

• up to 36 inches and 17.5 pounds

Range:

Nova Scotia to Florida

Facts:

- spawn from May to October in inshore waters
- named for its fragile mouth structure which causes a hook to tear out rather easily
- important food and game fish
- may live as long as 17 years, but a 12 year lifespan is more likely



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Year	Total
1980	4
1981	17
1982	10
1983	26
1984	2
1985	41
1986	26
1987	8
1988	7
1989	10
1990	11
1991	63
1992	78
1993	14
1994	9
1995	782
1996	48
1997	39
1998	21
1999	8
2000	24
2001	10
2002	4
2003	33
2004	6
2005	4
2006	6
2007	4
2009	6
2010	2
2011	13
2012	1
2014	17
2015	2
2016	5
2017	14
2018	3
2019	3
Total	1,381

*weakfish were only caught during the years shown

For more information about weakfish, please check out these articles:

Drum Fish: A Profile

https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/artdrumfish18.htm

What Happened to Weakfish?

http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2010/digmar6-10.pdf

Species Profile: Weakfish

http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2010/digmar20-27.pdf

Anglers Unite with Biologists to Change Weakfish Management Plan *click on link below and then scroll down to digest page 11

http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2003/digmar8-13.pdf