



SMALLMOUTH BASS

Micropterus dolomieu

Description:

- ◆ dark spots form 8 to 16 vertical bars on yellow green sides
- ◆ olive brown above
- ◆ dark mottling on back and sides
- ◆ yellow white below
- ◆ large mouth with upper jaw extending just beneath eye
- ◆ young have tri-colored caudal fin (yellow, black and white)

Size:

- ◆ up to 27 inches

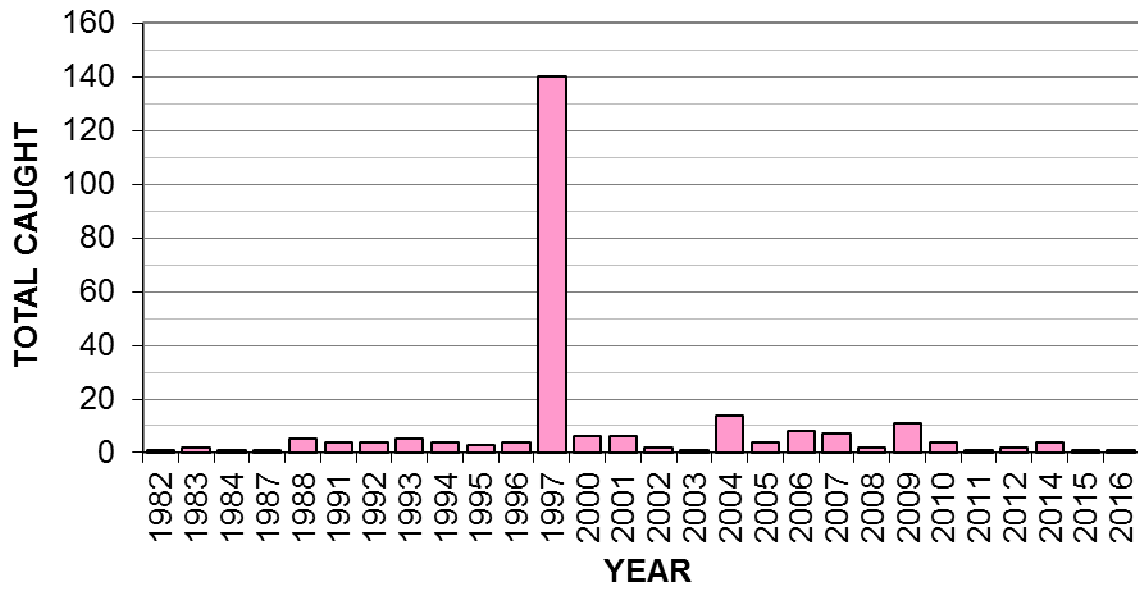
Range:

- ◆ Native to St. Lawrence- Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins from south Quebec to North Dakota and south to northern Alabama and eastern Oklahoma; introduced over much of southern Canada and U.S. except Atlantic and Gulf Slope drainages- rare south of Virginia and east of central Texas

Facts:

- ◆ prefer cooler rivers and lakes with rocky to sandy bottoms
- ◆ visual predators- need clear water
- ◆ spawning consists of a complex dance, where fish rub and bite each other
- ◆ males build nest and care for fry
- ◆ females may spawn in several nests; multiple females may spawn in same nest
- ◆ females lay up to 2000 eggs each spawning
- ◆ actual act of spawning takes 5 seconds and is repeated for up to 2 hours
- ◆ eggs hatch in 4 to 6 days and stay at nest for 2 weeks

SMALLMOUTH BASS CATCH TOTALS BY YEAR



*smallmouth bass were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Marine Fisheries
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