



Pumpkinseed Sunfish

Lepomis gibbosus



Description:

- ◆ bright red/orange spot with light edge on black ear flap
- ◆ deep, laterally compressed body
- ◆ brassy yellow to olive sides with abundant gold and copper flecks
- ◆ wavy blue lines on cheek and opercle of adult
- ◆ dark, chain-like vertical bands on sides of young

Size:

- ◆ up to 16 inches; average around 7 inches

Range:

- ◆ Native to Atlantic Slope drainages from New Brunswick to Edisto River, South Carolina
- ◆ Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and upper Mississippi River basins from Quebec and New York west to southeastern Manitoba and North Dakota and south to northern Kentucky and Missouri
- ◆ introduced over much of southern Canada and U.S., including some Pacific drainages

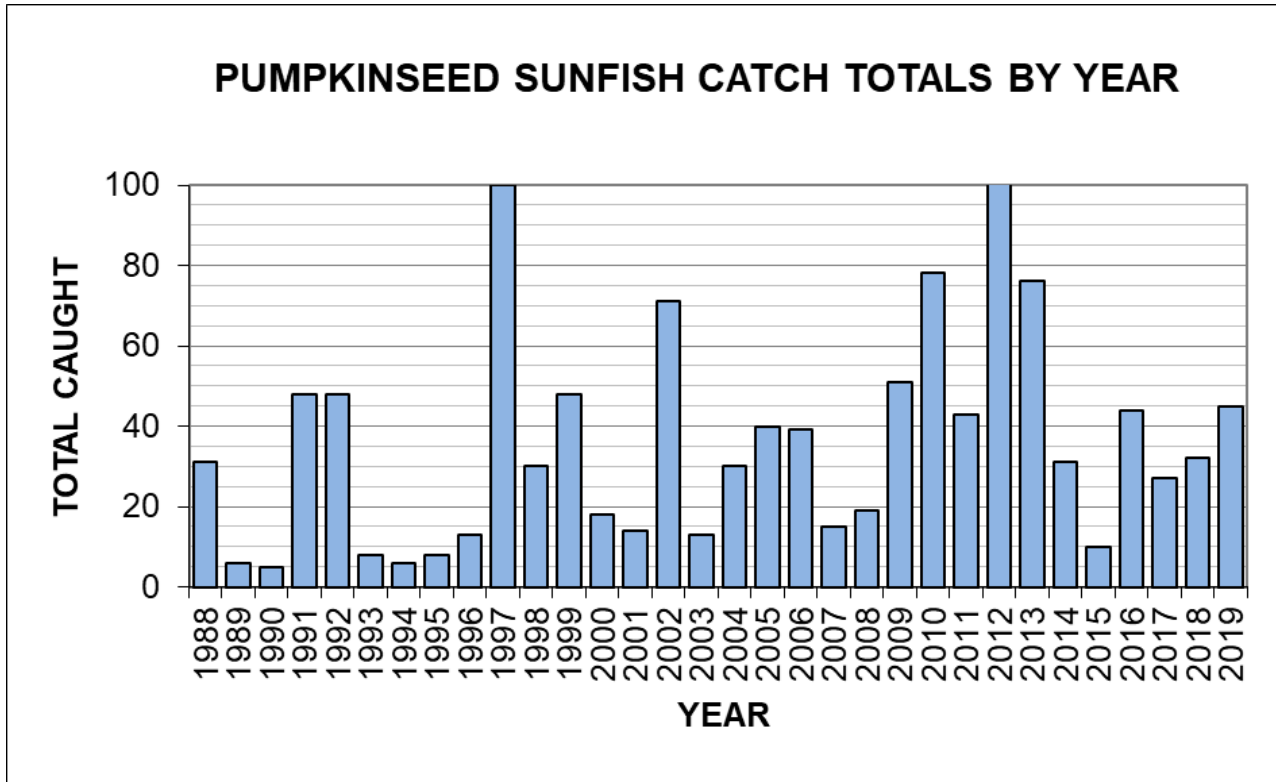
Facts:

- ◆ prefer well vegetated lakes, ponds and quiet pools of creeks and small rivers
- ◆ spawning occurs late spring to late summer
- ◆ males build and protect the nest
- ◆ females, between 2 and 5 years, produce 4000 to 7000 eggs in one season
- ◆ males breed several times (about every 11 days) throughout the season
- ◆ average lifespan is 5 to 6 years
- ◆ consume insects, insect larvae, mollusks, snails, crustaceans, small fish and leeches
- ◆ effective tool for controlling mosquito populations



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*pumpkinseed sunfish were only caught during the years shown