



## 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

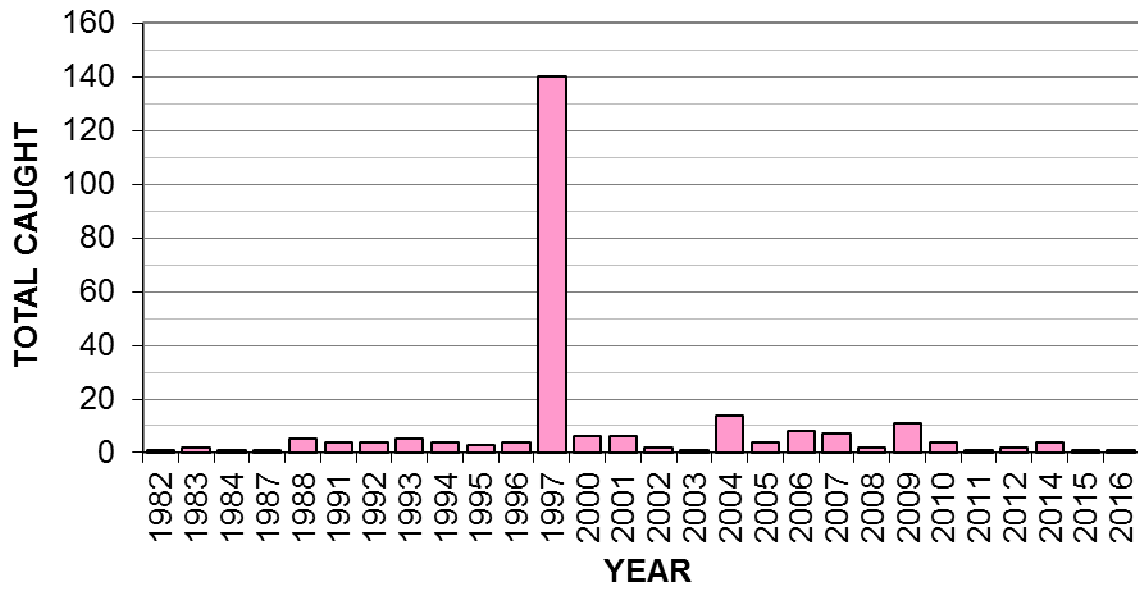
### **Range:**

- ◆ 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  
[www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com)