



Spanish Mackerel

Scomberomorus maculatus



Description:

- ◆ greenish, blue back
- ◆ silvery white sides and belly
- ◆ large, oval, yellow brassy spots evenly traverse the body
- ◆ lateral line slopes evenly downward below 2nd dorsal fin
- ◆ long slender body

Size:

- ◆ up to 37 inches

Range:

- ◆ Cape Cod (rare north of Chesapeake Bay) to southern Florida and entire Gulf of Mexico
- ◆ absent from Bahamas and Antilles, but not Cuba and Haiti

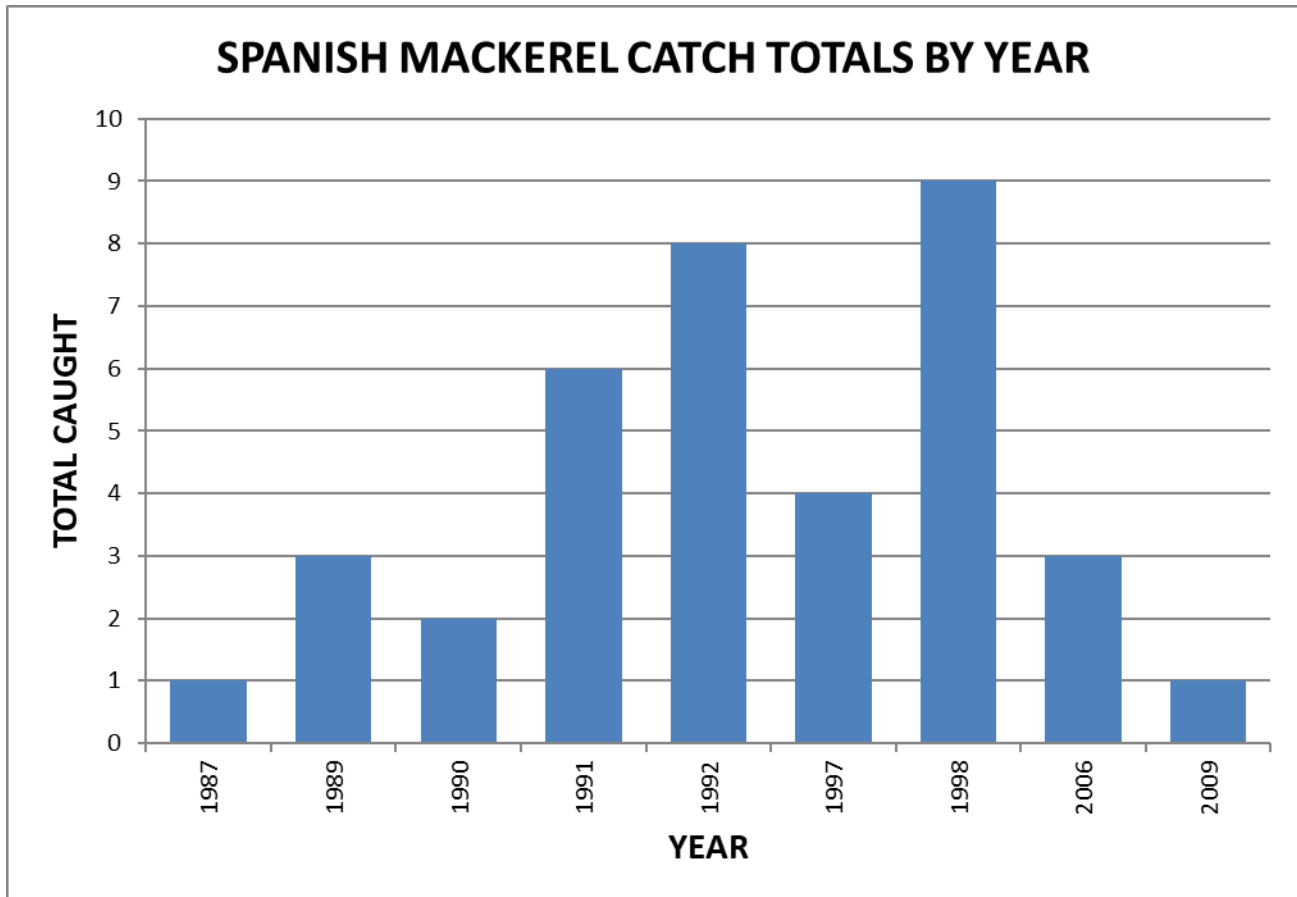
Facts:

- ◆ prefers temperatures over 68 degrees
- ◆ live mostly in open water but can be found over deep grass beds, reefs, and occasionally in shallow estuaries
- ◆ feed mostly on bait fish
- ◆ major predators include dolphins and sharks
- ◆ mature at 2 years
- ◆ spawn April to May
- ◆ batch spawners (females shed their eggs more than once in a season)
- ◆ release 500,000 to 1.5 million eggs
- ◆ 2 subpopulations: one in South Atlantic and one in Gulf of Mexico (they don't travel around southern tip of Florida or Keys)
- ◆ most commonly caught from bridges



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*Spanish mackerel were only caught during the years shown