



Striped Cusk-eel

Ophidion marginatum



Description:

- ◆ grayish green on top
- ◆ golden sides
- ◆ belly is snow white
- ◆ 2-3 dark stripes along sides
- ◆ (faint in young fish)
- ◆ dark edges on dorsal and anal fins
- ◆ males have crest at nape
- ◆ elongate body
- ◆ all unpaired fins are merged into a continuous fin
- ◆ well-developed ventral fins form long forked barbel-like structures on the throat
- ◆ scales alternating and form basket weave pattern

Size:

- ◆ up to 10 inches, typically 5-9 inches

Range:

- ◆ lower Hudson River, New York to northeastern Florida

Facts:

- ◆ found in shallow coastal waters, like bays and estuaries
- ◆ will back tail first into sand when frightened
- ◆ eats small crustaceans and small fish
- ◆ preyed on by larger fish, like spiny dogfish, skates and summer flounder
- ◆ spawn June through November
- ◆ active at night
- ◆ sexual dimorphism in sound producing mechanism

STRIPED CUSK-EEL CATCH TOTALS

Year	Total
1991	2
Grand Total	2

*striped cusk-eels were only caught during the year shown