



AMERICAN SHAD

Alosa sapidissima

Description:

- ◆ black spot just behind the gill opening, usually followed by a row of 2 or more smaller, less distinct dark spots
- ◆ upper jaw extends to rear margin of eye
- ◆ silver body with dark green to blue back
- ◆ cheek deeper than it is long

Size:

- ◆ up to 30 inches
- ◆ largest member of the herring family

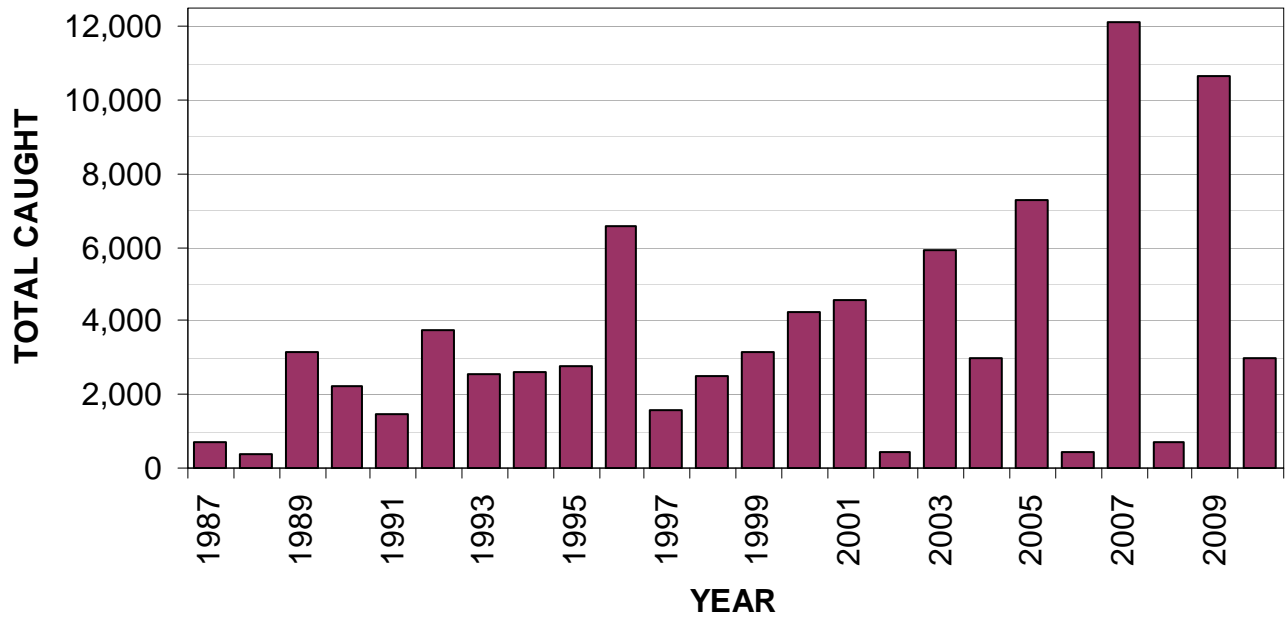
Range:

- ◆ Atlantic coast from Sand Hill River, Labrador, Canada to St. John's River, Florida

Facts:

- ◆ the Delaware River is the principal spawning area in NJ
- ◆ important food source for people along the river
- ◆ travel in large schools
- ◆ important prey for birds and larger fish

AMERICAN SHAD CATCH TOTALS BY YEAR



*from 1980 to 1986, the largest catch was 106 fish in 1986

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
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