

## ATLANTIC NEEDLEFISH

*Strongylura marina*

### **Description:**

- ◆ long, narrow body
- ◆ green above with silvery sides
- ◆ adults have a thin bluish stripe along each side
- ◆ dorsal and anal fins are set towards back of body just before tail
- ◆ pectoral fins are small and set high on the sides
- ◆ lower jaw extends beyond upper
- ◆ elongated jaws with sharp teeth

### **Size:**

- ◆ up to 24 inches

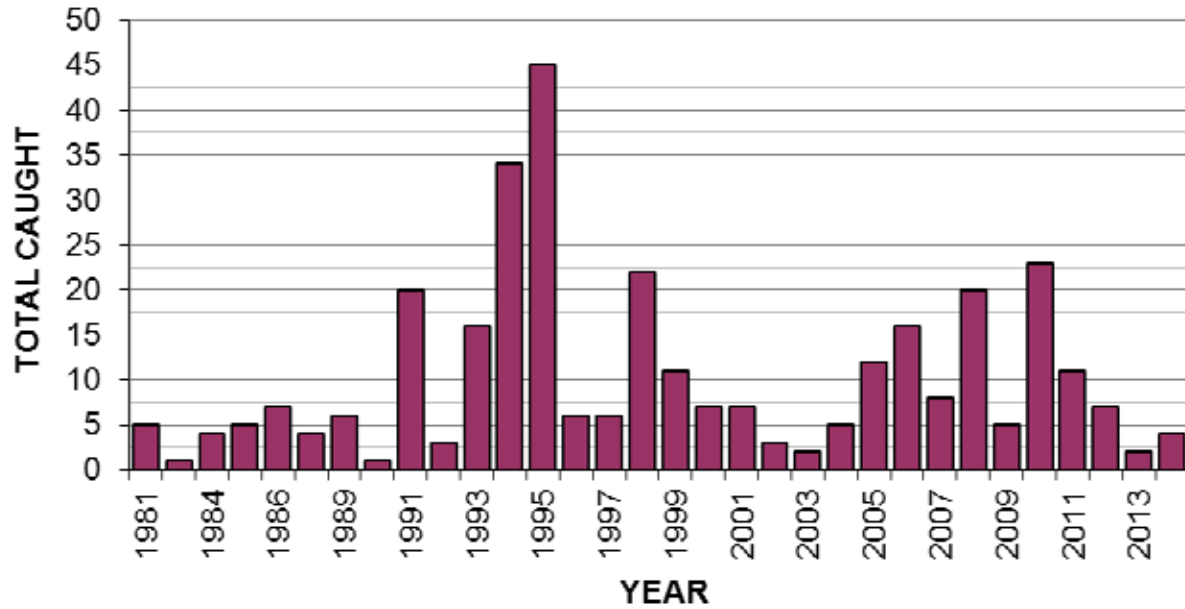
### **Range:**

- ◆ Maine and northern Gulf of Mexico to Brazil

### **Facts:**

- ◆ found in coastal waters, bays and estuaries
- ◆ generally nocturnal and actively feed at night
- ◆ feed mostly on shrimp and small fish, like peanut bunker and silversides
- ◆ spends a lot of time near the surface
- ◆ jump out of water chasing small fish
- ◆ drawn to light, therefore they congregate near piers and bridges
- ◆ spawn late spring to summer
- ◆ females release thread-like eggs that sink and stick to each other

## ATLANTIC NEEDLEFISH CATCH TOTALS BY YEAR



NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Bureau of Marine Fisheries  
[www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com)