



## **BANDED SUNFISH**

*Enneacanthus obesus*

### **Description:**

- ◇ black spot (larger than pupil) on earflap
- ◇ rounded caudal fin and pectoral fins
- ◇ 6 or 7 vertical bars
- ◇ olive above, light olive below
- ◇ purple gold spots form rows on sides
- ◇ dark teardrop shaped spot below eye

### **Size:**

- ◇ up to 3 inches

### **Range:**

- ◇ below fall line in Atlantic and Gulf Slope drainages from southern New Hampshire to Perdido River, Florida; south to central Florida

### **Facts:**

- ◇ prefers heavily vegetated lakes and ponds; sandy and mud-bottomed pools and backwaters of creeks and rivers
- ◇ feed on small crustaceans, aquatic insects and small mollusks
- ◇ spawn April through July
- ◇ males build nests but do not guard the eggs, like other sunfish
- ◇ eggs are buoyant and will eventually drift from the nest

- ◇ very restricted home range and do not swim long distances
- ◇ little is known about the banded sunfish

### **BANDED SUNFISH CATCH TOTALS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
2004	16
2009	6
2013	8
2015	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40</b>

\*banded sunfish were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Bureau of Marine Fisheries  
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