



## **BLACK CRAPPIE**

*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*

### **Description:**

- ◇ long predorsal region with sharp dip above eye
- ◇ 7-8 dorsal spines
- ◇ upturned snout
- ◇ symmetrical dorsal and anal fins
- ◇ gray green above, white below
- ◇ silvery blue sides with green flecks and wavy black lines/blotches
- ◇ black lines/bands and spots on non-paired fins

### **Size:**

- ◇ up to 19 inches

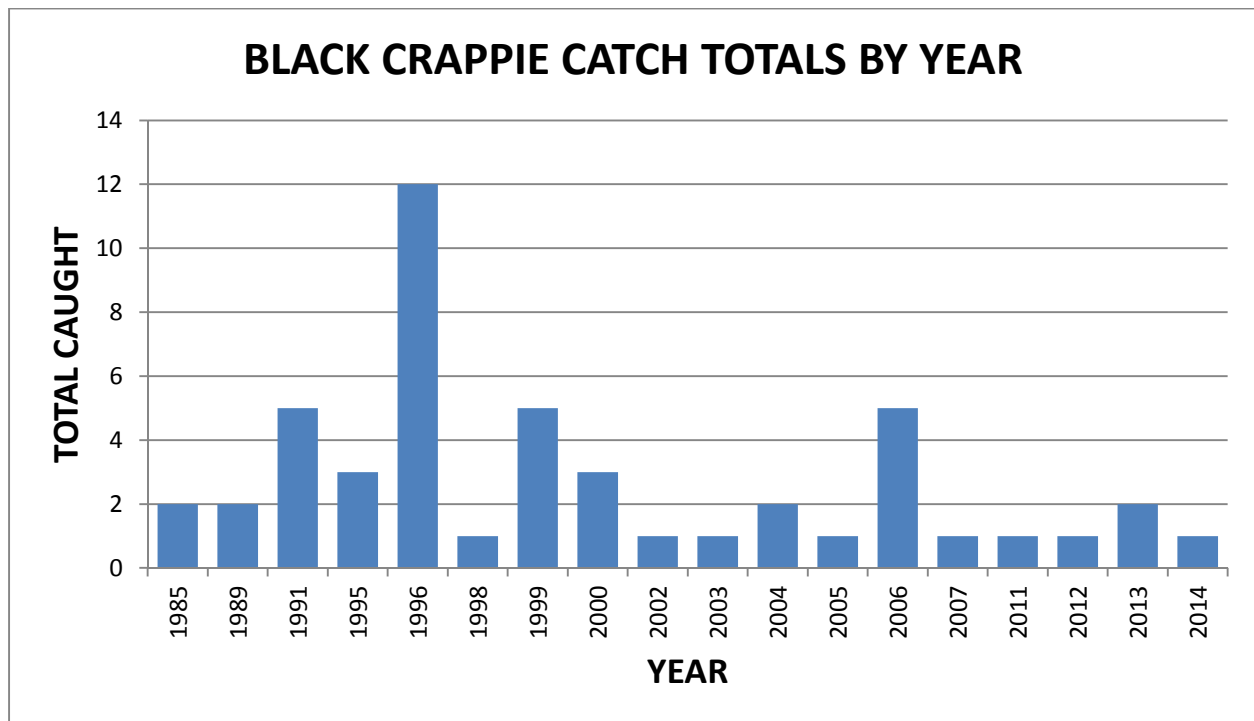
### **Range:**

- ◇ native to fresh waters of central and eastern North America. Widely introduced to few lakes of the Pacific coast and Canada as a sport fish

### **Facts:**

- ◇ prefers clear, cool, well vegetated waters of quiet ponds and lakes, shallow areas of large lakes and slow moving sections of rivers

- ◇ spawn in late spring and early summer in 58-68 degree temperatures
- ◇ like other sunfish, males build and tend nests until young fish leave
- ◇ females produce 10,000-200,000 eggs and may spawn in multiple nests
- ◇ takes about 4 years to grow to 12 inches
- ◇ mature at age 2
- ◇ average lifespan in 7 years
- ◇ schooling fish
- ◇ feed on planktonic crustaceans, aquatic insects, minnows and fingerlings of other species



\*black crappies were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
 Division of Fish and Wildlife  
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