



CARP

Cyprinus carpio

Description:

- ◆ 2 barbels on each side of the upper jaw
- ◆ deep bodied
- ◆ brassy green above
- ◆ yellowish white below
- ◆ adults have red orange caudal and anal fins

Size:

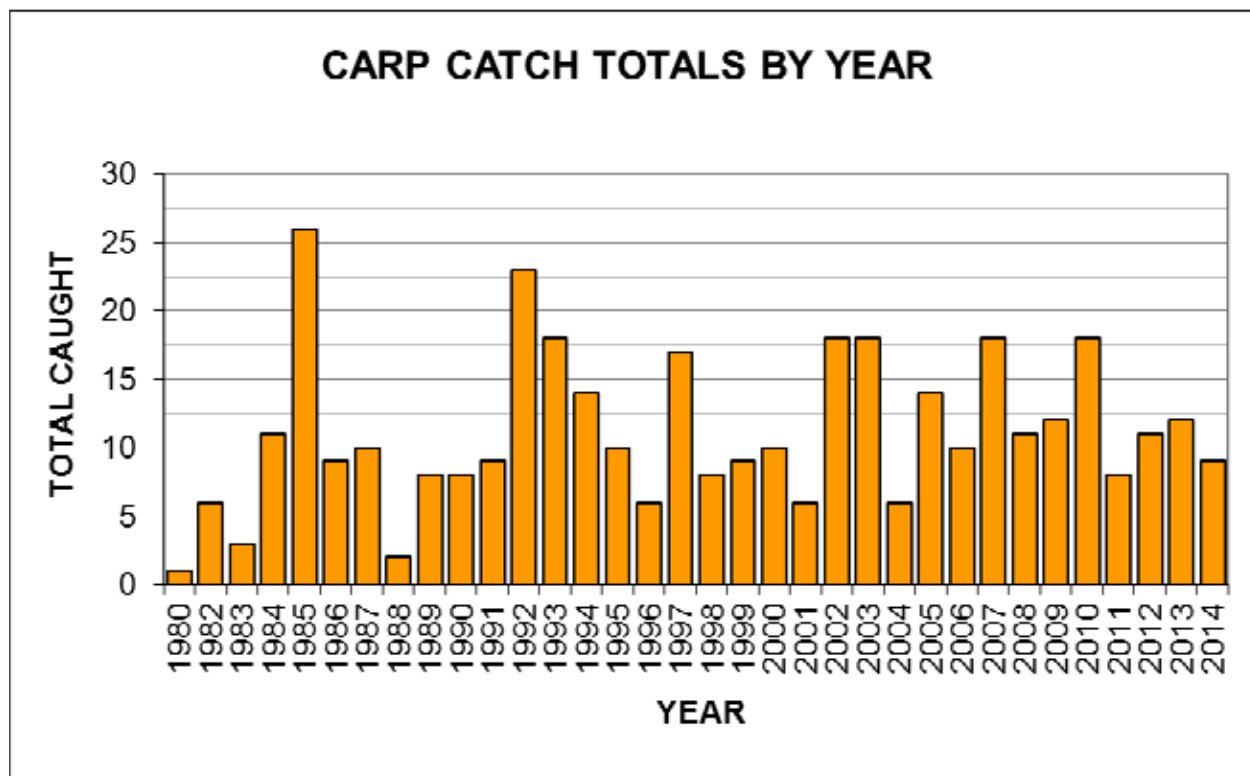
- ◆ up to 48 inches

Range:

- ◆ native to Eurasia; introduced to North America in 1831; now widely distributed in south Canada and most of the United States; absent in poles and northern Asia

Facts:

- ◆ prefer large, slow moving bodies of water, but are hardy and tolerant of a wide variety of habitats
- ◆ spawn in spring and early summer
- ◆ female lays an average of 300,000 eggs over one season
- ◆ after the eggs are scattered and fertilized, there is no further parental care
- ◆ average lifespan is 17 to 20 years
- ◆ adults have no predators other than humans
- ◆ feeding methods decimate macrophytes and decrease overall water quality



*carp 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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