



CHAIN PICKEREL

Esox niger

Description:

- ◆ green to bronze in color
- ◆ chain-like markings on a contrasting lighter background
- ◆ dark bar beneath each eye
- ◆ dark upper side is interrupted by light vertical bars
- ◆ pupil of eye is yellow
- ◆ fully scaled cheeks and gill covers
- ◆ snout long, broad and rounded
- ◆ 14-17 brachistegal rays
- ◆ large mouth and sharp set of teeth

Size:

- ◆ 15-20 inches and 1-2 pounds, up to 39 inches

Range:

- ◆ Atlantic and Gulf coast tributaries, has been introduced else where

Facts:

- ◆ opportunistic, ambush style of feeding
- ◆ eat small fish, crayfish, frogs mice, newts and insects
- ◆ among first fish to spawn after ice-out
- ◆ can live for 10 years
- ◆ spawn in swampy or marshy backwater areas
- ◆ early spawning increases the young's chance of survival
(will be larger to feed on newly hatched young of other species)

CHAIN PICKEREL CATCH TOTALS

Year	Total
2003	1
Grand Total	1

*chain pickerel 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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