



## GIZZARD SHAD

*Dorosoma cepedianum*

### **Description:**

- ◆ silvery, bronze body
- ◆ dark blue/black back
- ◆ 6-8 dark stripes along upper side
- ◆ dark shoulder spot
- ◆ last dorsal ray forms long filament (absent in young)

### **Size:**

- ◆ up to 20 inches; more commonly up to 14 inches

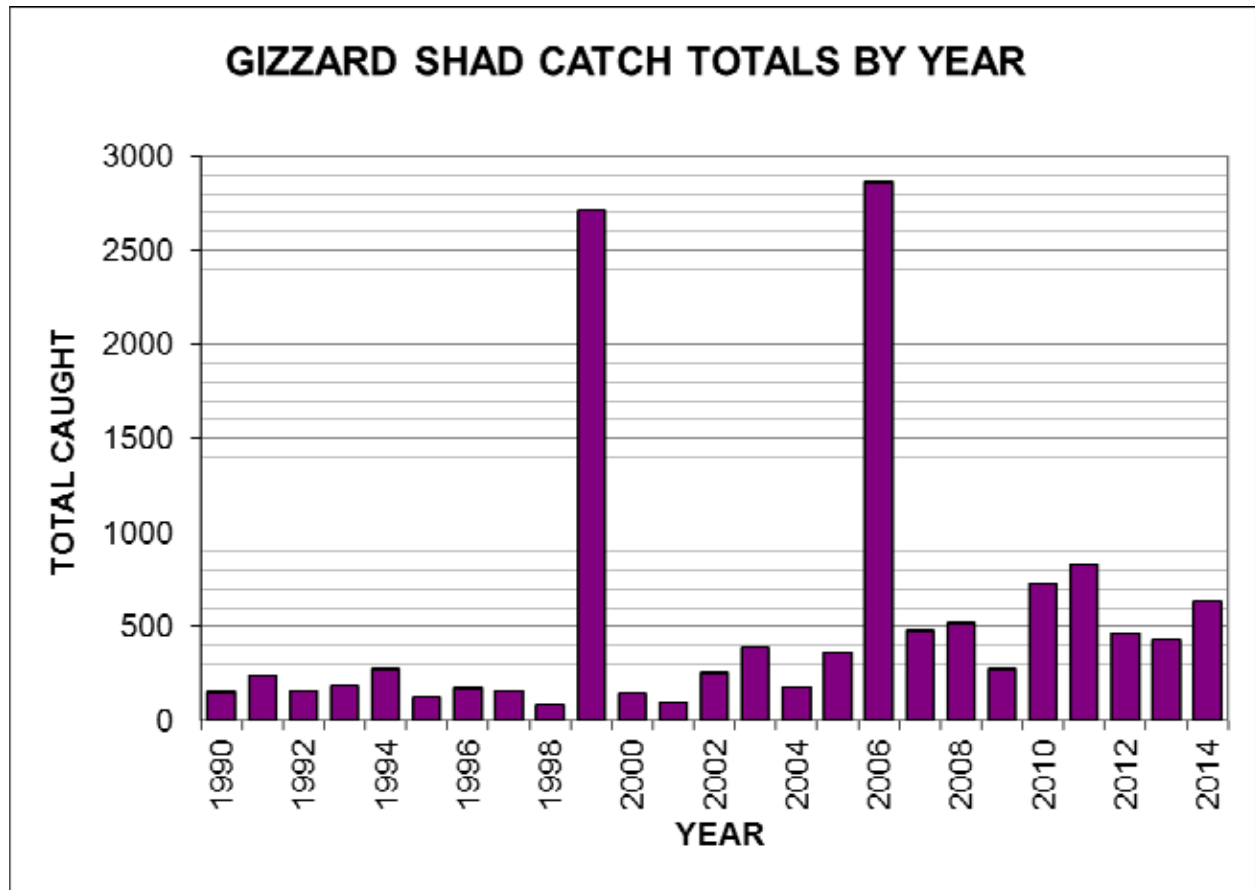
### **Range:**

- ◆ in the east, south Canada to northern Mexico, but absent in southern Florida

### **Facts:**

- ◆ usually found in large schools
- ◆ spawn in late spring in diverse waters
- ◆ eggs and sperm are released together at the surface
- ◆ eggs sink, adhere to submerged objects and hatch in 4 days

- ◆ females produce up to 400,000 eggs
- ◆ filter mud to eat phytoplankton and zooplankton
- ◆ these fish produce excess slime



\*from 1980 to 1989, the largest catch was 67 fish in 1989

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
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