



## **GOLDFISH**

*Carassius auratus*

### **Description:**

- ◆ large scales
- ◆ long dorsal fin (15 to 21 rays)
- ◆ 3 spines at front of dorsal and anal fins
- ◆ deep thick body
- ◆ terminal mouth
- ◆ lack barbels
- ◆ olive gray above and lighter below (in the wild)
- ◆ brassy sheen on back and sides

### **Size:**

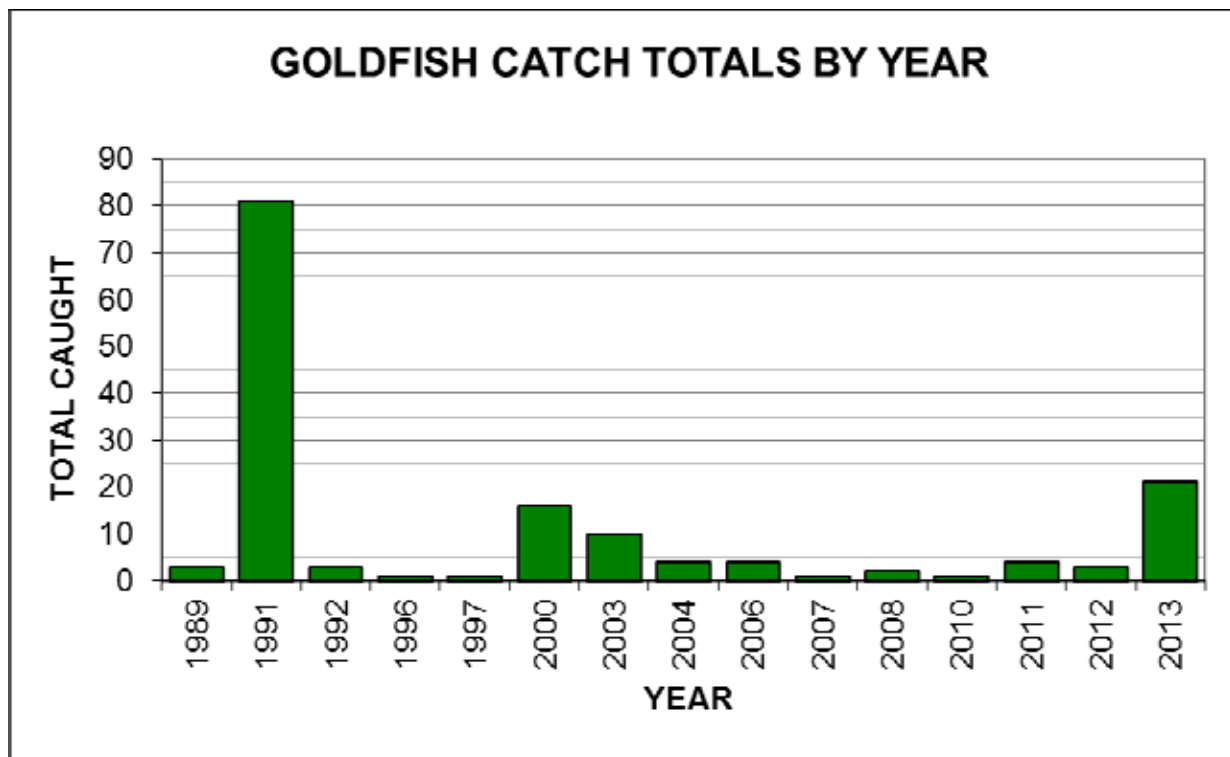
- ◆ up to 16 inches

### **Range:**

- ◆ native to Asia; now well established in the U.S. and much of southern Canada

### **Facts:**

- ◆ prefer shallow, muddy pools in slow moving bodies of fresh water
- ◆ in the wild, breeding occurs during the summer
- ◆ female can produce several thousand eggs every 8 to 10 days
- ◆ during spawning, females become rounder and males form small bumps on their heads, operculi and pectoral fins
- ◆ eggs are not protected and hatch in 4 to 5 days
- ◆ wild goldfish are omnivores



\*goldfish were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
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