



GREEN SUNFISH

Lepomis cyanellus

Description:

- ◆ blue-green back and sides
- ◆ white to yellow belly
- ◆ often wavy lines on cheek and opercle
- ◆ short black ear flaps with a white to yellow edge
- ◆ yellow or orange edge on second dorsal, caudal and anal fins
- ◆ upper jaw extends beneath the pupil of the eye
- ◆ wider body than most sunfish
- ◆ 13-14 pectoral rays
- ◆ 9 anal rays

Size:

- ◆ average length is 5-6 inches

Range:

- ◇ Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins from New York and Ontario to Minnesota and South Dakota and south to the Gulf of Mexico; Gulf of Mexico slope Drainages from Escambia River, Florida and Mobile Bay, Georgia and Alabama to Rio Grande in Texas

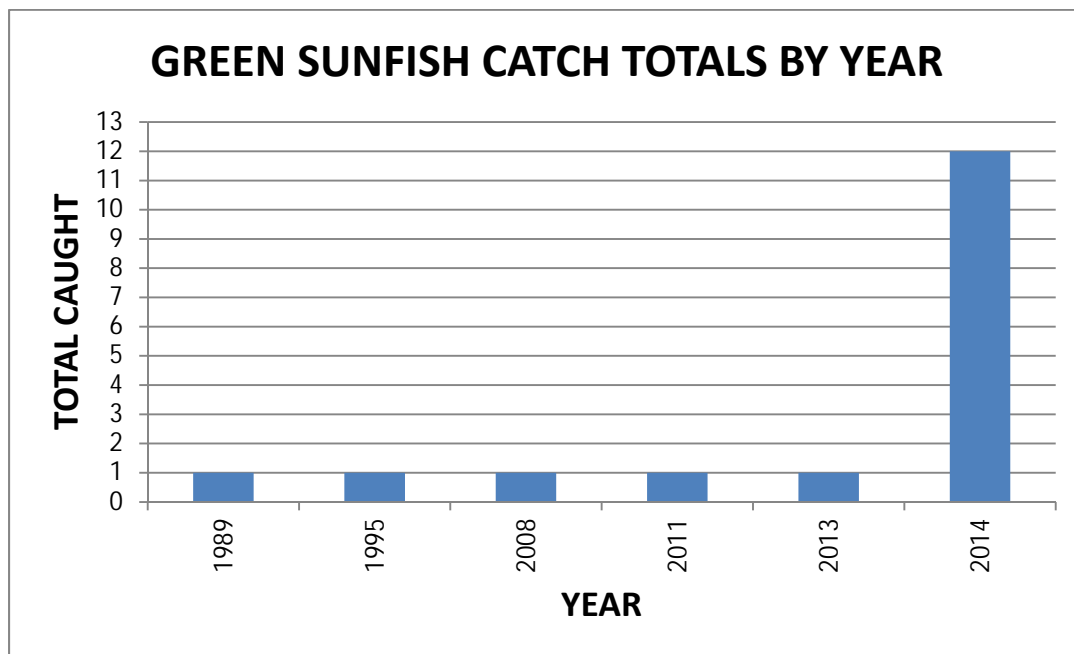
Facts:

- ◇ usually live 4-6 years in the wild
- ◇ males build nests with gravel and guard for 5-7 days after eggs hatch
- ◇ eat small fish, fish eggs, insects and crayfish
- ◇ tolerant to poor water quality
- ◇ readily hybridize with other species of sunfish
- ◇ like to hide around rocks, logs, or brush piles

***The green sunfish is considered an invasive species.**

For more information, please visit this website:

http://njfishandwildlife.org/aquatic_invasives.htm



*green sunfish were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Marine Fisheries
www.NJFishandWildlife.com