



## ATLANTIC MENHADEN

*Brevoortia tyrannus*

### **Description:**

- ◆ silvery fish with dark bluish green back
- ◆ fins pale yellow
- ◆ very deep body with deeply forked tail
- ◆ dark spot behind gill cover followed by a series of lighter spots

### **Size:**

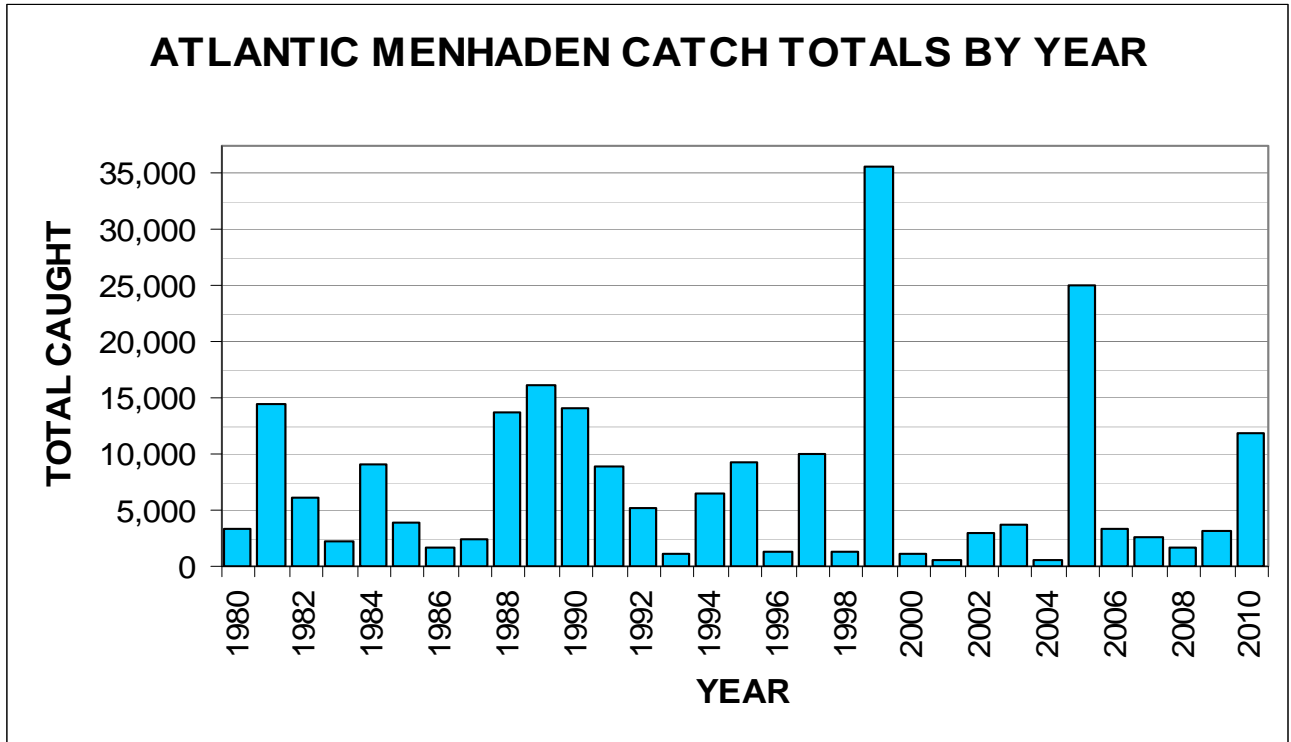
- ◆ up to 14 inches

### **Range:**

- ◆ Nova Scotia to Florida

### **Facts:**

- ◆ spawn in the ocean but young will spend first year in estuaries
- ◆ schooling behavior and superabundance make them the perfect food source for large populations of top predator fish like striped bass
- ◆ important for filtering coastal waters due to large numbers of algae they consume



**For more information about Atlantic menhaden, please check out this article:**

Atlantic Menhaden: A Profile

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2003/digmar8-13.pdf>

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
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