



ATLANTIC MENHADEN

Brevoortia tyrannus

Description:

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

Size:

- ◆ up to 14 inches

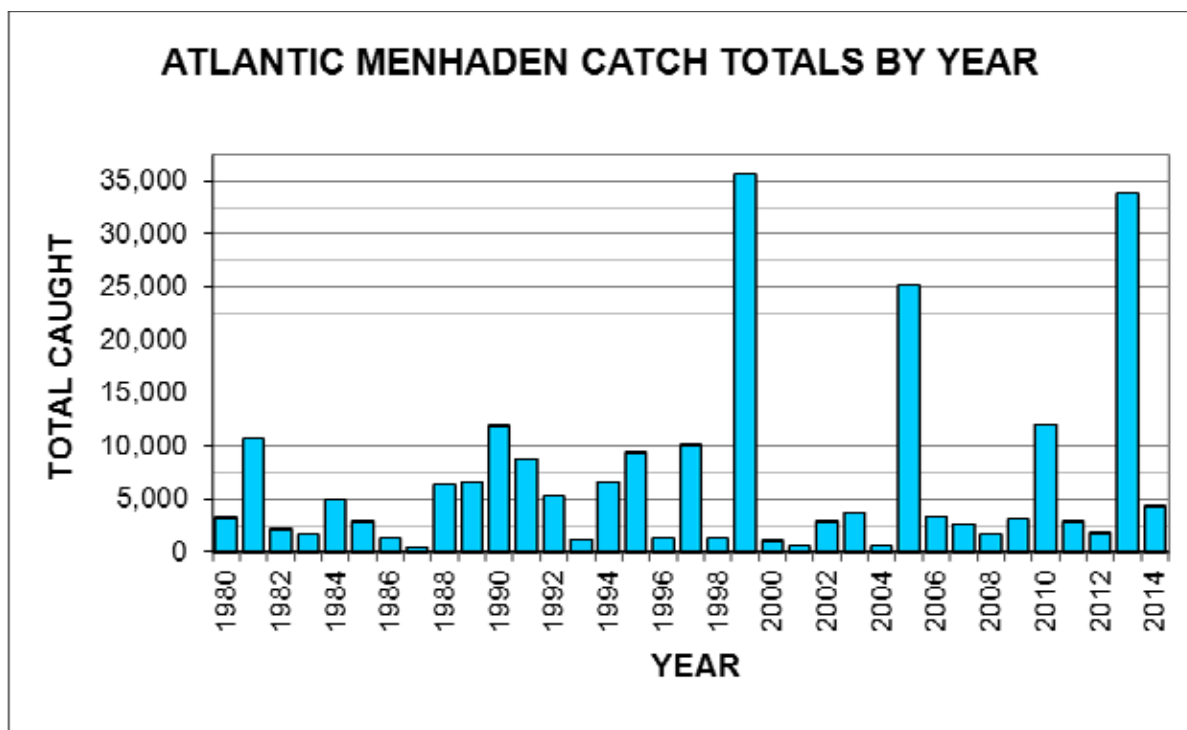
Range:

- ◆ 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

- ◇ one of the most abundant fish species in estuarine and coastal Atlantic waters
- ◇ feed primarily on plankton



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

Atlantic Menhaden: A Profile

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

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