



MUMMICHOG

Fundulus heteroclitus

Description:

- ◆ blunt head
- ◆ dark, vertical bars on sides
- ◆ females are pale brown
- ◆ males are dark olive with yellow underside

Size:

- ◆ up to 5 inches

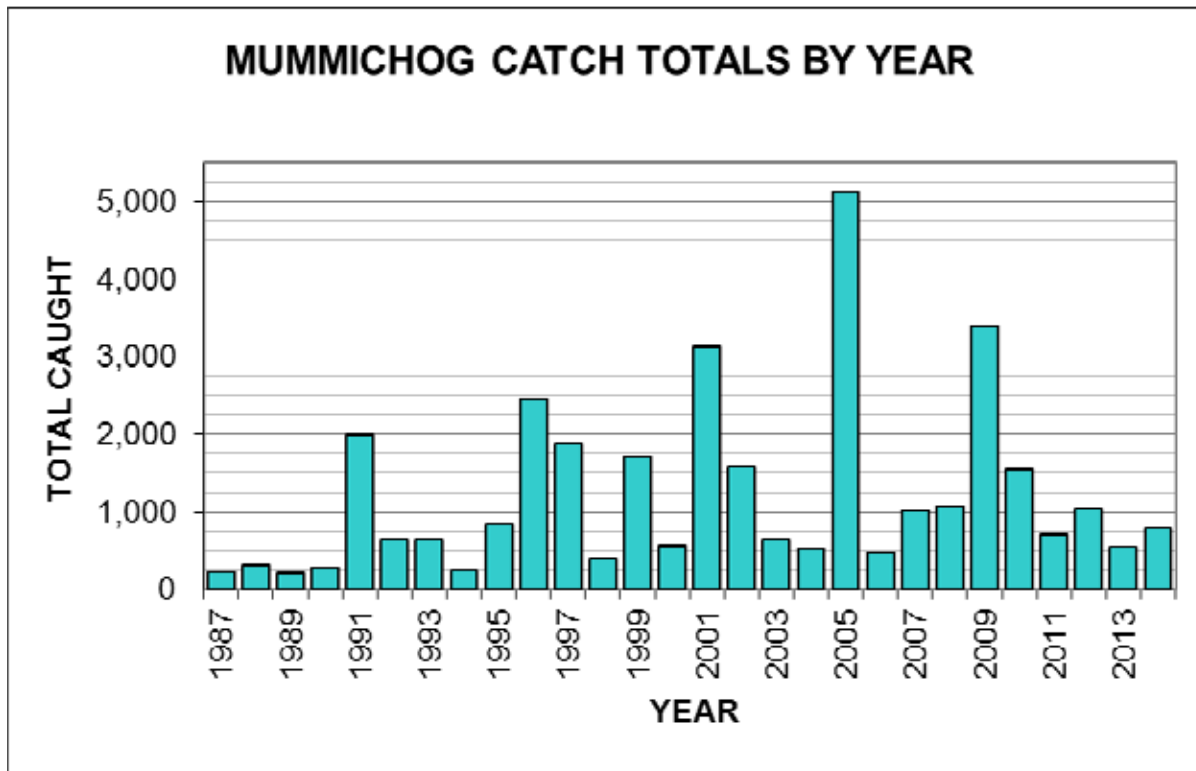
Range:

- ◆ Gulf of St. Lawrence to northeast Florida

Facts:

- ◆ 3 year lifespan
- ◆ spawns on new and full moons during summer season
- ◆ eggs hatch on successive moon tide
- ◆ spawn up to 8 times a season

- ◆ eggs are laid on sand, leaves and empty shells
- ◆ inhabit salt marshes, tidal creeks and estuaries
- ◆ feed on insects, small fish, crustaceans and plant material
- ◆ used as a natural method of mosquito control in ditches and marsh ponds, since they can eat up to 2000 mosquito larvae a day
- ◆ in 1973, the mummichog became the first fish in space, aboard Skylab 3



*from 1980 to 1986, the largest catch was 98 fish in 1982

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
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