

## NORTHERN KINGFISH

*Menticirrhus saxatilis*

### **Description:**

- ◆ dark angular bands vertically along sides
- ◆ long spine on first dorsal fin
- ◆ single barbel on lower jaw
- ◆ lack canine teeth
- ◆ dark bar at nape forms 'V' with first bar on body
- ◆ gray brown above with silvery sides

### **Size:**

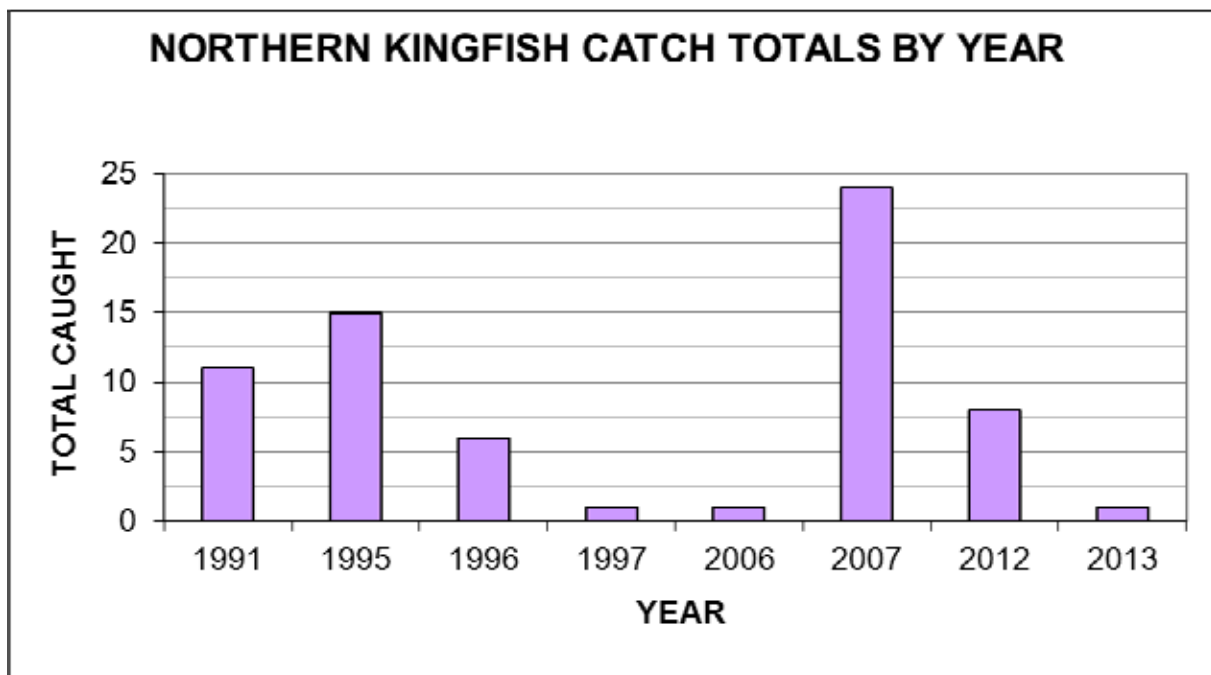
- ◆ up to 18 inches

### **Range:**

- ◆ Massachusetts to southern Florida and Gulf of Mexico to Yucatan

### **Facts:**

- ◆ prefer shallow coastal waters
- ◆ bottom feeders
- ◆ average lifespan is up to 4 years
- ◆ lack swim bladder, so they don't make croaking sounds like other species in the drum family
- ◆ spawn April to August
- ◆ eggs are released and float for 46 to 50 hours before hatching



\*Northern kingfish were only caught during the years shown

**For more information about Northern kingfish, please check out this article:**

Northern Kingfish: A Profile

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/artkingfish.htm>

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Bureau of Marine Fisheries  
[www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com)