



NORTHERN PIPEFISH

Syngnathus fuscus

Description:

- ◇ long slender body
- ◇ tube-like snout
- ◇ body covered with rings of bony scales
- ◇ small fan-like tail
- ◇ olive brown above
- ◇ golden yellow below
- ◇ dark mottling all over body
- ◇ 36 to 39 dorsal fin rays
- ◇ 18 to 20 trunk rings
- ◇ 33 to 36 tail rings

Size:

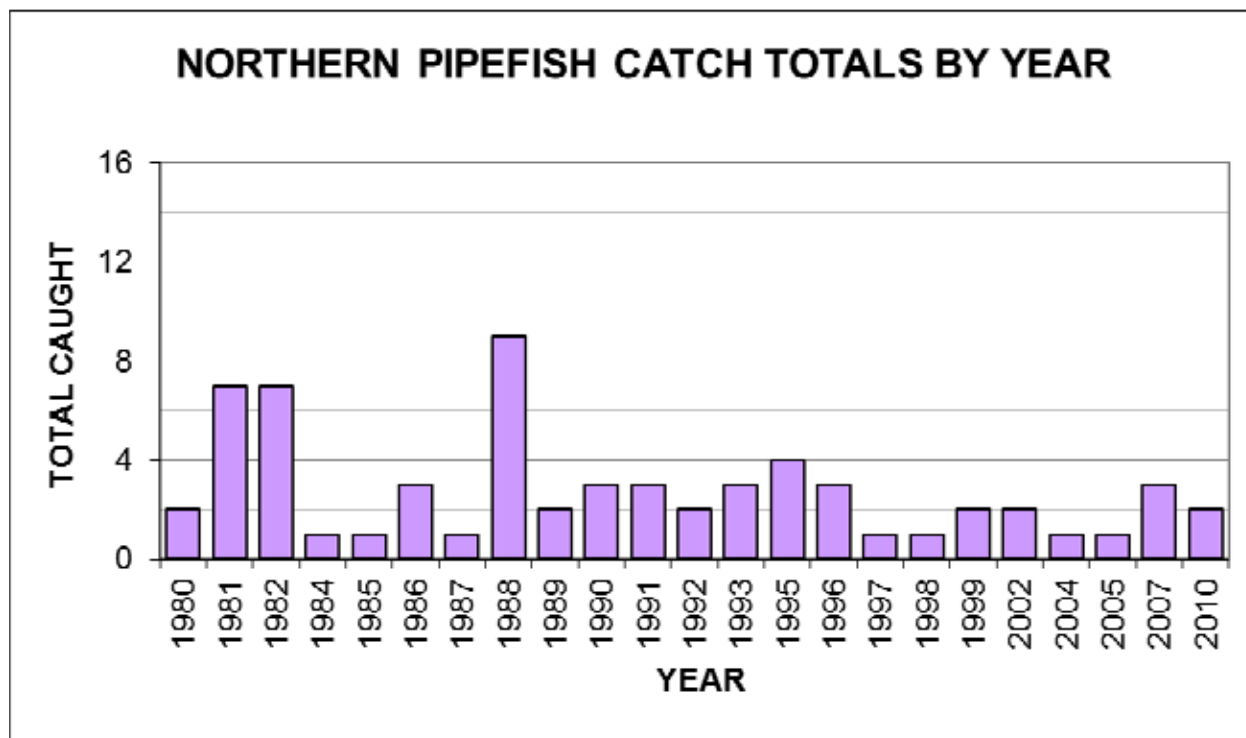
- ◇ up to 12 inches

Range:

- ◇ Gulf of St. Lawrence to northeaster Florida; northwestern Gulf of Mexico

Facts:

- ◇ prefer sea grass beds in bays and estuaries
- ◇ feed mainly on tiny crustaceans
- ◇ reproduce between April and October; peaking in May and June
- ◇ female transfers eggs to males' brood pouch, where they're fertilized and incubated
- ◇ eggs hatch in 14 days; males release fully formed young pipefish into the water
- ◇ closely related to seahorses
- ◇ avoid predators by 'standing' vertically in grass beds and swaying to mimic a blade of eel grass



*Northern pipefish were only caught during the years shown

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