



## **ROCK BASS**

*Ambloplites rupestris*

### **Description:**

- ◇ olive green above, white below
- ◇ adults have greenish silver sides with brassy yellow flecks and horizontal rows of dark spots (darker and larger below lateral line)
- ◇ young has gray sides with dark blotches and brassy yellow flecks
- ◇ black edges of caudal, dorsal and anal fins
- ◇ eye is usually red to red-orange

### **Size:**

- ◇ up to 17 inches; more commonly under 10 inches

### **Range:**

- ◇ native to St. Lawrence- Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins, from Quebec to Saskatchewan and south to northern Georgia, Alabama and Missouri; introduced into Atlantic drainages south to Roanoke River, Virginia, Missouri and Arkansas River drainages, Missouri, Arkansas, southeast Kansas, northeast and some western states

**Facts:**

- ◈ prefer well vegetated clear, fresh waters, but also inhabit vegetated streams, creeks, small to medium rivers and lakes
- ◈ withstand summer temperatures up to 88 degrees, and yet be found under ice during winter months
- ◈ feed on smaller fish, insects and crustaceans
- ◈ spawn in spring
- ◈ males build and guard nests until the fry leave

**ROCK BASS CATCH TOTALS**

| <b>Year</b>        | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1997               | 2            |
| 1998               | 9            |
| 2002               | 1            |
| 2011               | 1            |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>13</b>    |

\*rock bass were only caught during the years shown

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