

## **ATLANTIC SILVERSIDE**

*Menidia menidia*

### **Description:**

- ◆ short head with large eyes
- ◆ slender body with rounded belly
- ◆ straight edge on anal fin with 23-26 anal rays
- ◆ metallic silver stripe on sides

### **Size:**

- ◆ up to 6 inches

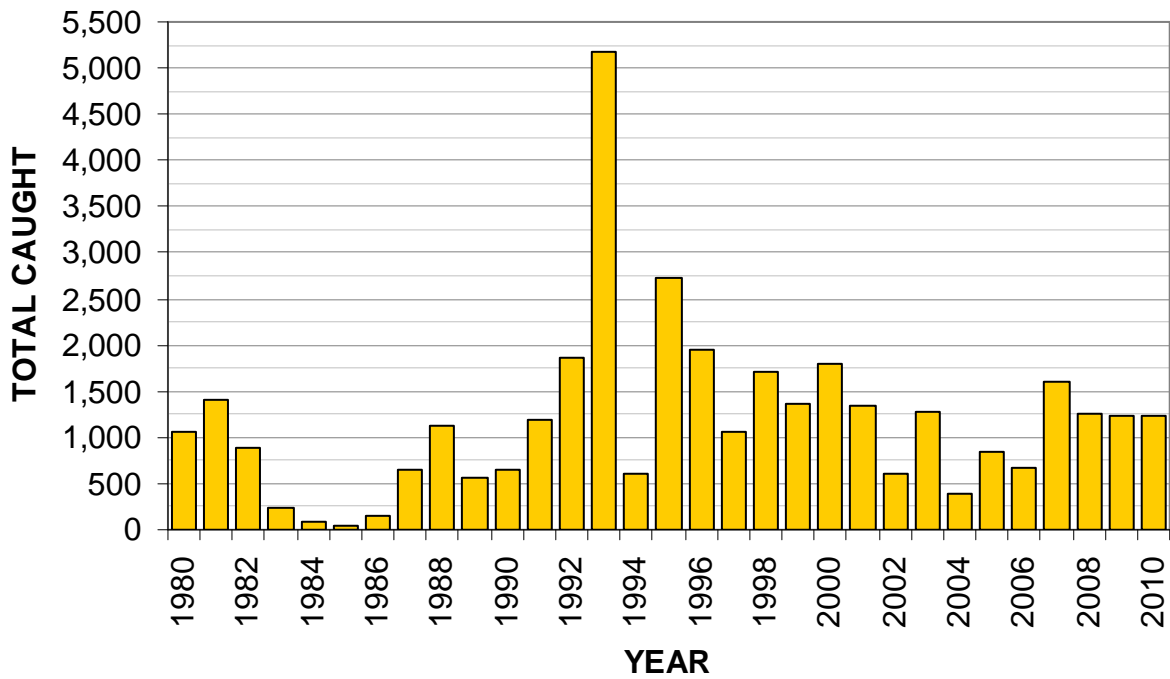
### **Range:**

- ◆ Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada to northeast Florida

### **Facts:**

- ◆ spawn from May to July during the full and new moons
- ◆ scatter eggs on sandy bottom of estuary
- ◆ short lifespan of about 2 years, but most die after spawning at 1 year
- ◆ important food source for bigger game fish and various birds
- ◆ fall prey to birds as they leap out of the water to try and escape predator fish
- ◆ common research subjects due to sensitivity to extreme environmental conditions (i.e. low oxygen levels, vast temperature changes, pollutants)

## ATLANTIC SILVERSIDE CATCH TOTALS BY YEAR



NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
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