



## SMALLMOUTH FLOUNDER

*Etropus microstomus*

### **Description:**

- ◆ left eye flounder
- ◆ body unspotted
- ◆ olive brownish, usually with large blotches of darker color
- ◆ 2 or 3 dark pigmented blotches along portions of the anal and dorsal fins
- ◆ white blind side
- ◆ ovate body
- ◆ blunt snout
- ◆ small mouth (does not extend much below the lower eye)
- ◆ rounded caudal fin
- ◆ narrow ventral fin
- ◆ nearly straight lateral line
- ◆ pectoral fin on the eye side is much larger than the fin on the blind side  
(ocular side pectoral fin has 9-12 fin rays, blind side has 8 or 9 fin rays)

### **Size:**

- ◆ up to 5 in

**Range:**

- ◇ Massachusetts to North Carolina, sometimes found in South Carolina and Florida

**Facts:**

- ◇ very similar to the Gulf Stream Flounder  
(the Smallmouth Flounder lacks a bony projection on its snout)
- ◇ eaten by other fish like spiny dogfish and winter flounder
- ◇ spawn near the shore
- ◇ sometimes like channels and mud bottoms
- ◇ found in water temperatures of 50-75° F

**SMALLMOUTH FLOUNDER CATCH TOTALS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
1995	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>

\*smallmouth flounder were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
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