



SOUTHERN KINGFISH

Menticirrhus americanus

Description:

- ◇ grayish brown on top
- ◇ silvery sides
- ◇ 7-8 diagonal dusky bands or blotches on each side (obscure and never form V-shaped marks on the side)
- ◇ single short, stout barbel at tip of chin
- ◇ fins are dusky colored
- ◇ elongated body
- ◇ caudal fin has elongated lower lobe (appears 'S' shaped)

Size:

- ◇ up to 15 inches and 2.5 pounds

Range:

- ◇ New York to Texas

Facts:

- ◇ bottom feeders
- ◇ mainly an inshore and bay species
- ◇ juveniles found in estuaries with brackish or very low salinity waters

- ◆ spawning occurs in late spring and summer in near shore coastal waters
- ◆ uses chain barbel to locate bottom prey in estuaries and in the surf
- ◆ tolerate greater temperature and salinity ranges than the northern and gulf kingfish

SOUTHERN KINGFISH CATCH TOTALS

Year	Total
1993	8
2008	1
2012	2
2014	1
Grand Total	12

*Southern kingfish were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Marine Fisheries
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