



SPANISH MACKEREL

Scomberomorus maculatus

Description:

- ◇ greenish, blue back
- ◇ silvery white sides and belly
- ◇ large, oval, yellow brassy spots evenly traverse the body
- ◇ lateral line slopes evenly downward below 2nd dorsal fin
- ◇ long slender body

Size:

- ◇ up to 37 inches

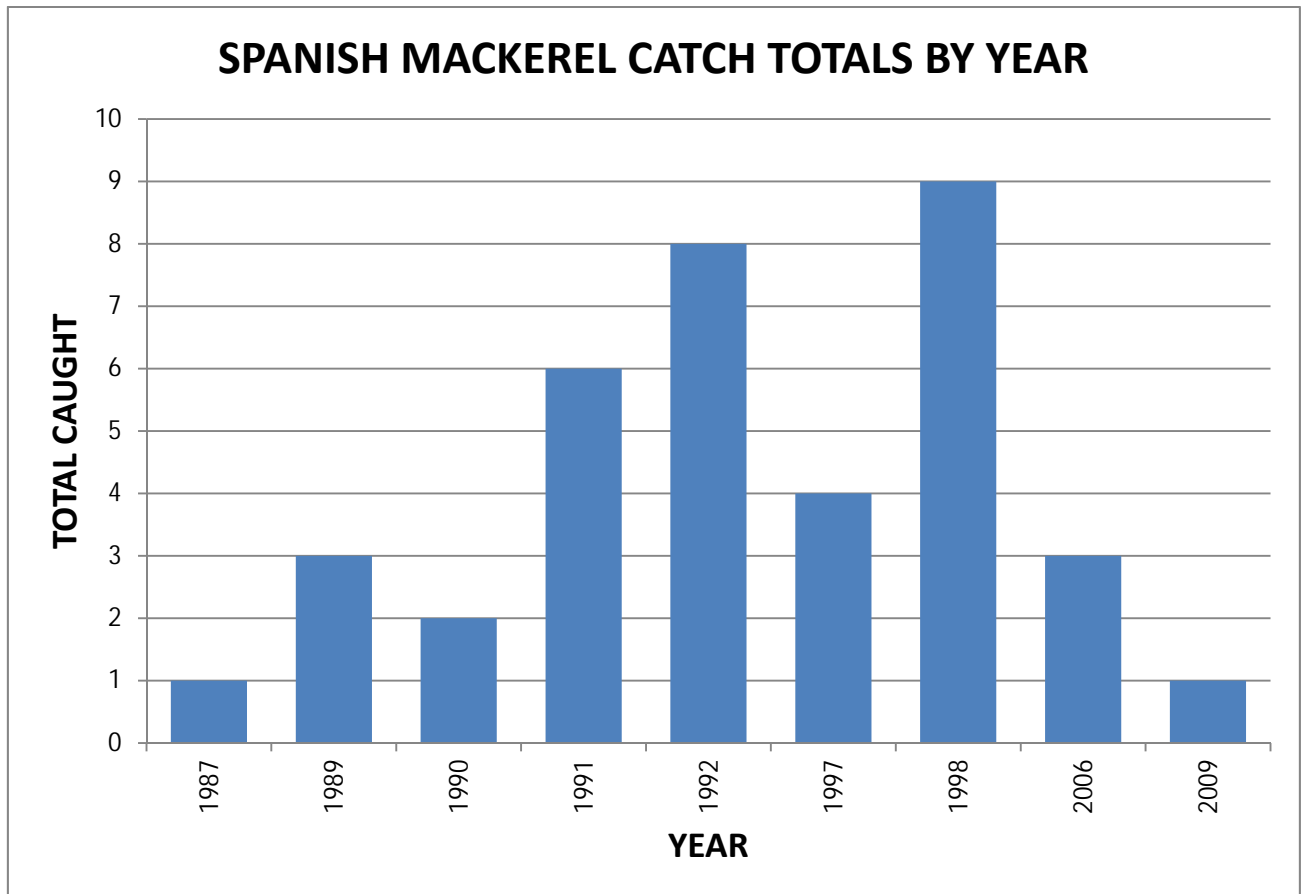
Range:

- ◇ Cape Cod (rare north of Chesapeake Bay) to southern Florida and entire Gulf of Mexico; absent from Bahamas and Antilles, but not Cuba and Haiti

Facts:

- ◇ prefers temperatures over 68 degrees
- ◇ live mostly in open water but can be found over deep grass beds, reefs, and occasionally in shallow estuaries
- ◇ feed mostly on bait fish
- ◇ major predators include dolphins and sharks
- ◇ mature at 2 years
- ◇ spawn April to May
- ◇ batch spawners (females shed their eggs more than once in a season)

- ◇ release 500,000 to 1.5 million eggs
- ◇ 2 subpopulations: 1 in South Atlantic and 1 in Gulf of Mexico
(they don't travel around southern tip of Florida or Keys)
- ◇ most commonly caught from bridges



*Spanish mackerel were only caught during the years shown

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