



## STRIPED CUSK-EEL

*Ophidion marginatum*

### **Description:**

- ◆ grayish green on top
- ◆ golden sides
- ◆ belly is snow white
- ◆ 2-3 dark stripes along sides (faint in young fish)
- ◆ dark edges on dorsal and anal fins
- ◆ males have crest at nape
- ◆ elongate body
- ◆ all unpaired fins are merged into a continuous fin
- ◆ well-developed ventral fins form long forked barbel-like structures on the throat
- ◆ scales alternating and form basket weave pattern

### **Size:**

- ◆ up to 10 inches, typically 5-9 inches

### **Range:**

- ◆ lower Hudson River, New York to northeastern Florida

**Facts:**

- ◆ found in shallow coastal waters, like bays and estuaries
- ◆ will back tail first into sand when frightened
- ◆ eats small crustaceans and small fish
- ◆ preyed on by larger fish, like spiny dogfish, skates and summer flounder
- ◆ spawn June through November
- ◆ active at night
- ◆ sexual dimorphism in sound producing mechanism

**STRIPED CUSK-EEL CATCH TOTALS**

Year	Total
1991	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>

\*striped cusk-eels 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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