



## WHITE SUCKER

*Catostomus commersoni*

### **Description:**

- ◇ olive brown above
- ◇ white belly
- ◇ gray dorsal and caudal fins
- ◇ all other fins are white, yellow, light brown and sometimes orange
- ◇ long slender body with soft fins
- ◇ small subterminal mouth

### **Size:**

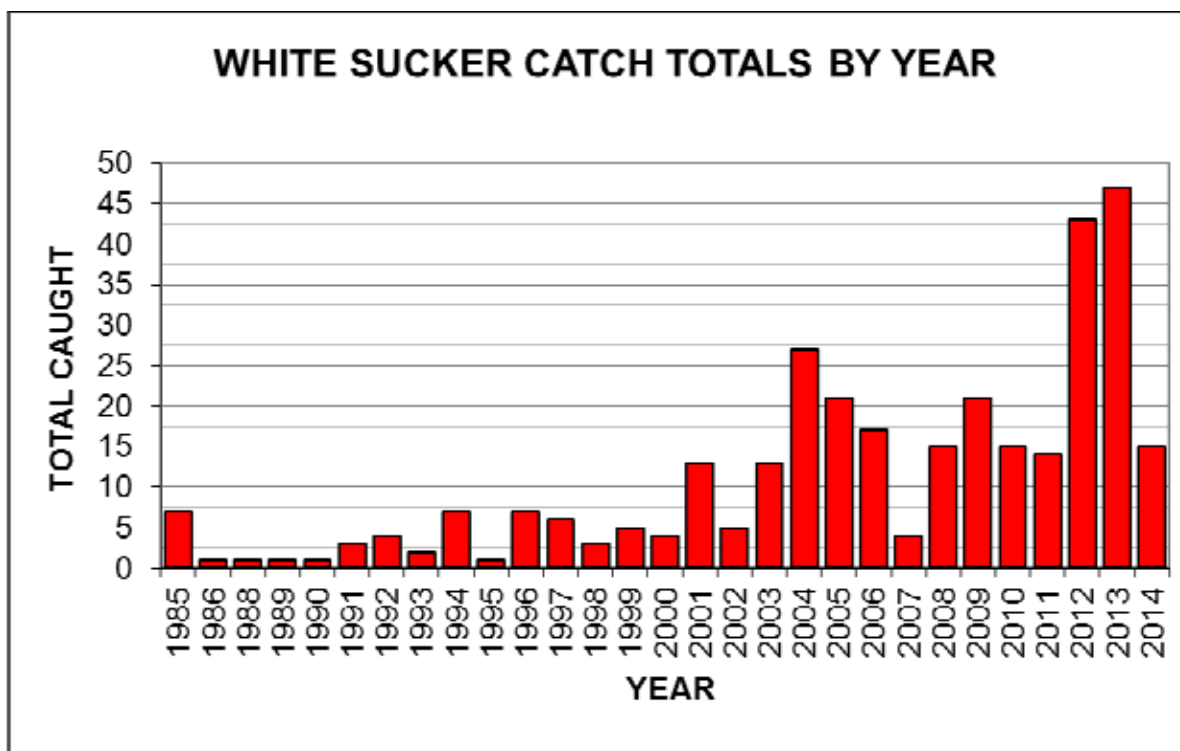
- ◇ up to 25 inches

### **Range:**

- ◇ Atlantic, Arctic, Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins from Newfoundland to Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories, south to Tennessee River drainages, northern Alabama, and Arkansas River drainage; New Mexico; south on Atlantic Slope to Santee River drainage, South Carolina; upper Rio Grande drainage; Skeena and Fraser River drainages (Pacific Slope), British Columbia; Introduced into Colorado River drainage, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah

### **Facts:**

- ◇ very tolerant of pollution, turbidity and low oxygen levels
- ◇ spawn from April to early May
- ◇ females spread 20,000 to 50,000 eggs over gravel substrate in moving water
- ◇ breeding males have a pink stripe on their sides
- ◇ during spawning, males grow pearl organs which help them cling to the females



\*white suckers 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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