



BANDED SUNFISH

Enneacanthus obesus

Description:

- ◇ black spot (larger than pupil) on earflap
- ◇ rounded caudal fin and pectoral fins
- ◇ 6 or 7 vertical bars
- ◇ olive above, light olive below
- ◇ purple gold spots form rows on sides
- ◇ dark teardrop shaped spot below eye

Size:

- ◇ up to 3 inches

Range:

- ◇ below fall line in Atlantic and Gulf Slope drainages from southern New Hampshire to Perdido River, Florida; south to central Florida

Facts:

- ◇ prefers heavily vegetated lakes and ponds; sandy and mud-bottomed pools and backwaters of creeks and rivers
- ◇ feed on small crustaceans, aquatic insects and small mollusks
- ◇ spawn April through July
- ◇ males build nests but do not guard the eggs, like other sunfish
- ◇ eggs are buoyant and will eventually drift from the nest

- ◇ very restricted home range and do not swim long distances
- ◇ little is known about the banded sunfish

BANDED SUNFISH CATCH TOTALS

Year	Total
2004	16
2009	6
2013	8
2015	10
Grand Total	40

*banded sunfish were only caught during the years shown

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