



LONGEAR SUNFISH

Lepomis megalotis

Description:

- ◇ olive to rusty brown back
- ◇ yellow to orange-red belly
- ◇ blue-green bars on the sides of its head
- ◇ back and sides with specks of yellow-orange, emerald and blue
- ◇ elongated opercular flap gives the 'long ear' appearance
- ◇ females slightly smaller than males
- ◇ males are generally brighter and have a larger opercular flap
- ◇ 13-14 pectoral rays
- ◇ 9-10 anal rays

Size:

- ◇ up to 9.5 inches, usually 4-4.5 inches

Range:

- ◇ east to central North America; from southern Quebec and Ontario through the Eastern U.S. and west to Oklahoma, Texas and northeastern Mexico

Facts:

- ◇ often mistaken as a pumpkinseed
- ◇ likes vegetation in rocky and sandy pools of creeks and small to medium rivers

- ◇ spawn in groups
- ◇ males will guard the nest until the eggs have hatched
- ◇ favor slow to moderate flow in clear streams
- ◇ one female can lay over 22,000 eggs
- ◇ take 2-3 years to mature

LONGEAR SUNFISH CATCH TOTALS

Year	Total
1988	1
1990	1
Grand Total	2

*longear sunfish 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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