

Weakfish



Young-of-Year Weakfish



Mature Weakfish

Despite a few high catches in recent years, the overall number of weakfish caught during the Delaware Bay Trawl has been decreasing since 1999. A peak was reached that year, when the average number per tow was 54 fish. This average was tied during the sampling period of 2007. The lowest average was in 1993, with 3 fish per tow. The drop to an average of 22 fish per tow during 2006 could have been due to the fact that 2006 was a year of severe flooding. Because of an above average influx of freshwater into the bay, the weakfish most likely moved into regions with higher salinities. Despite a decreasing trend, the average number of weakfish caught per haul has been increasing for the past three years. The largest weakfish was caught in 1998, and had a fork length of 360 mm (14.2 inches).

