

The Pier Aquarium presents the Celebrity Critter of the Week!



<http://dicksandy.org/>

Giant Clam

Scientific Name: *Pogonias cromis*

Description: Chunky, high-backed fish with numerous barbels under the lower jaw. Younger fish have 4-5 dark vertical bars on their sides that disappear with age.

Habitat: Atlantic Ocean from New York to Florida, Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Mexico.

Top 10 Facts:

1. The Black Drum is also known as the Texas drum, sea drum, saltwater drum, gray drum, drumfish, striped drum or tambor.
2. The largest Black Drum on record weighed 146 pounds, but the average size is 30-40 pounds.
3. The ability to produce croaking or drumming sounds with the air bladder is highly developed in the Black Drum. Anglers commonly are able to hear sounds from schools of fish while passing by in their boats.
4. Unlike spotted sea trout that spawn only in bays and red drum that spawn only in the Gulf, Black Drum will spawn in bays, the Gulf or in connecting passes.
5. Young drum feed on marine worms, small shrimp, crabs and other small fish. Larger drum eat crabs, algae, fish and other mollusks.
6. The barbels are used to find food by feel and smell. The drum often digs or roots out buried mollusks and worms while feeding in a head-down position.
7. This behavior creates small craters in the bottom that anglers call "drum noodles."
8. The Black Drum has no canine teeth, but does have highly developed pharyngeal teeth that are used to crush mollusks or crabs before swallowing.
9. Black Drum are found in sand flats, mud flats and at the mouths of creeks and rivers.
10. This species can survive in waters twice as salty as the Gulf of Mexico.