

The Pier Aquarium presents the Celebrity Critter of the Week!



http://floridasportfishing.com/magazine/images/stories/species/spotted-sea-trout_fb.jpg

Spotted Sea Trout

Scientific Name: *Cynoscion nebulosus*

Description: dark gray or green back, silvery-white below; distinct round spots on back, fins and tail; black margin along edge of tail; soft back fin with no scales.

Habitat: eastern U.S coast from Massachusetts to Florida into the Gulf of Mexico to Texas and Mexico.

Abundant in northern Gulf of Mexico and Florida.

Top 10 Facts:

1. Young Spotted Sea Trout grow rapidly, reaching eight inches by their first birthday and over 12 inches by age 2.
2. A croaking sound is made by the males during spawning and can be heard one to two hours before sunset.
3. Female fish produce an average of five to 600,000 eggs.
4. Spotted Sea Trout prefer shallower bays and estuaries with oyster beds and seagrass beds that attract prey species.
5. They are most common in the shallow bays during spring and summer.
6. Spotted Sea Trout are opportunistic carnivores whose feeding habits vary with size. Small trout feed primarily on small crustaceans. Medium-size trout feed on shrimp and small fish. Large fish feed almost exclusively on other fish such as mullet, pinfish, pigfish and menhaden.
7. This trout has one or two prominent canine teeth usually present at the tip of the upper jaw.
8. The fishing of sea trout and the destruction of their habitat have caused the population to decline.
9. The record catch in Florida is 15 lbs., 6 ozs.
10. The Spotted Sea Trout is one of the most sought after fish in Tampa Bay. It is extremely vulnerable to red tide and has one of the highest mortality rates due to red tide.

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