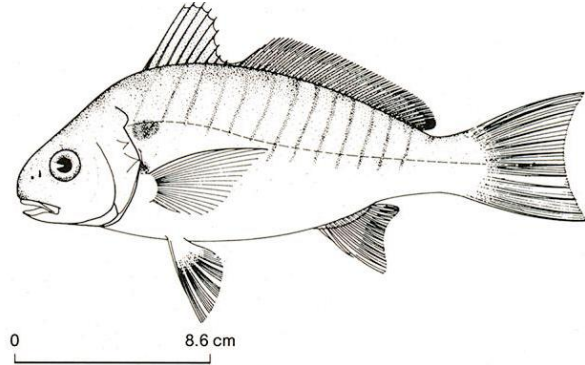


Spot

Leiostomus xanthurus

Croca



Description

Range: The spot, a bony fish of the family Sciaenidae, is found along the western Atlantic coast from Massachusetts, throughout coastal shelf areas of the Gulf, to the Yucatan Peninsula.

Habitat: A demersal fish, spot usually occur near sandy or muddy bottoms in coastal waters to depths of 200 meters.

Feeding and Behavior: An omnivorous species, spot feed mainly on worms, small crustaceans, and organic detritus found at or near the bottom. Adult spot dig into the bottom as they feed. Juvenile spot form large schools, and adults also aggregate during spawning. Male spot are capable of producing a "drumming" sound.

Reproduction: Spawning takes place offshore from October to February, peaking from December to February. Nursery areas are located along the coast and in estuaries and rivers. Juveniles prefer shallow waters near runoff areas, marshes, and tidal flats where the bottom is muddy and contains detritus. Juveniles remain in estuaries for eight to nine months.

Movement: Juveniles move offshore after one year's growth in estuaries.

Fisheries: In U.S. waters, spot is harvested commercially in eastern Florida and to a lesser extent, western Florida. It is also harvested in Mexico. Large specimens are used for food and small fish are used as bait and pet food.

References: Dawson, C.E., 1958; Kobylinski, G.J., and P.F. Sheridan, 1979; Parker, J.C., 1971.

Adult Area (Year-round)

Nursery Area (Year-round)

Spawning, from October to February, occurs throughout adult area.

References

Dawson, C.E., 1958; Fischer, W., ed., 1978; Gutherz, E.J., pers. comm.; Hildebrand, H.H., pers. comm.; Hildebrand, S.F., and W.C. Schroeder, 1928; Springer, S., and H.R. Bullis, Jr., 1956.

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