

**Range Map**

(fishbase.org)

FLUKE (SUMMER FLOUNDER)

Paralichthys dentatus

Poor

Conservation Status
"Poor" in NYS

FACT ONE



Fluke is a species of flatfish also known as summer flounder. Some other names include northern fluke or hirame. Fluke is a type of flounder but this name helps distinguish it from the very similar Winter Flounder.

FACT TWO



The way to distinguish fluke and winter flounder is by knowing if they are right or left-eyed. Fluke face left when their mouth points up and winter flounder face right when their mouth points up.

FACT THREE



Like other flounder, fluke hide at the bottom to catch prey. They are a lighter, more dappled brown than winter flounder. They also have "eye" spots patterned along their body. They can change color to match dark or light sediment they are lying in, too!

FACT FOUR



Fluke is a valuable food fish and has remained a popular commercial and recreational catch for hundreds of years. CCE Marine Program conducts important applied research on fluke including discard mortality (how many fish survive after being caught and thrown back).

For more information about F.I.S.H. Initiative:

<https://www.localfish.org/>



Overview

Fluke are found in inshore and offshore waters from Nova Scotia, Canada, to the east coast of Florida along the East Coast of the United States. It is a left-eyed flatfish that lives 12 to 14 years. Males grow to more than 2 feet in length and females grow up to 3 feet. They're nicknamed "chameleons of the sea" because they're able to change their coloring to blend in with the texture and color of the bottom where they live. Fluke have a big mouth with sharp teeth unlike winter flounder that have a smaller soft mouth with no teeth.

Life History

Fluke spawn in the fall and early winter. When its time, the larval fish lays on its side and develops into a juvenile once its right eye moves across the top of its head to the left side. Fluke are opportunistic, ambush feeders and will mostly prey upon small fish and crustaceans that pass by unaware. They lie buried in the sand waiting for prey to come close, then jump up and swallow them whole!

Status

Summer flounder are not overfished and are not subject to overfishing, according to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). However, the population of Fluke has decreased over the years and are being managed. CCE has done studies to help manage the Fluke stocks here on Long Island. By studying the ratio of males versus females landed and their sizes, CCE was able to help NYS DEC determine the correct size limit to allow for the larger, egg-laying females to produce the most offspring and be kept in the population.

How You Can Help

Join CCE in their F.I.S.H. Initiative and eat locally caught, fresh fish. Go to www.localfish.org to find more information on locations to purchase local seafood near you and lots of recipes for this delicious natural resource on Long Island! Buying local caught fish also helps our economy and supports our fishermen. Keep this important local resource for future generations... Fresh. Indigenous. Sustainable. Healthy.

