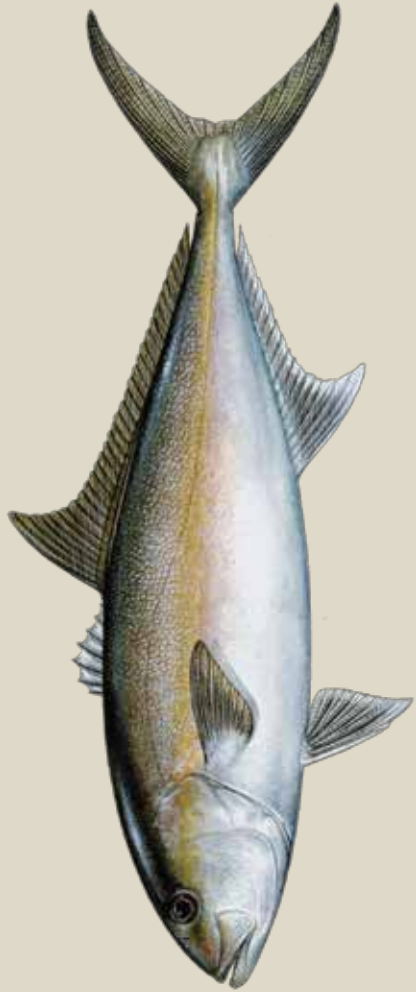


Greater Amberjack

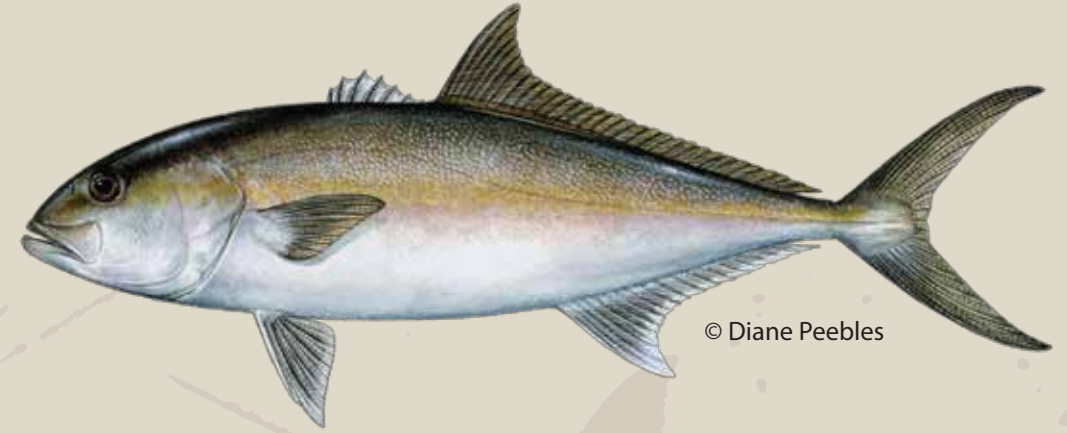


Greater Amberjack

(*Seriola dumerili*)



Greater amberjack have a bluish-brown back and a wide amber stripe along the length of each side. A dark bar extends diagonally from the front of the dorsal fin through each eye.



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Spawning Season

Greater amberjack spawn in groups of 100 to 150 near the edges of reefs in offshore waters. They typically spawn after a full moon throughout most of the year, with peak activity during March and April. During spawning, males and females pair off shortly before sunset to initiate courtship. During courtship, male greater amberjack develop scrawled patterns on their sides and turn a vivid electric blue, while the heads and upper bodies of female greater amberjack turn black.

Habitat

Although greater amberjack typically reside in nearshore waters of the Gulf of America, out to 300 feet deep, they occasionally move to deeper waters. Greater amberjack usually live near natural reefs, wrecks, and artificial reefs, as well as offshore oil and gas platforms. Young greater amberjack use floating objects such as seaweed mats for nursery habitat. At approximately eight inches in length, greater amberjack become more predatory and move away from nursery habitats into open water.

Diet

Greater amberjack swim alone or in groups to feed and are aggressive predators. They spend much of their time in the upper water column, prowling for food near structures and reefs. They eat a variety of fish including herring, scad, blue runners, grunts, porgies, triggerfish, little tunny, and other jacks. Their diets also include crab and squid, especially in juveniles.

Age and Growth

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries use “earstones” called otoliths to calculate the age of fish. Biologists remove these hard structures from the skull of bony fish and cut them into small sections to reveal yearly growth rings. In a process similar to ageing trees, they count the number of rings to determine the age of a fish. Fishery managers use fish age, length, and weight data to estimate growth rates, mortality rates, and population size. The chart below shows that greater amberjack grow rapidly during the first few years of life, and then growth stabilizes as they get older. Once greater amberjack mature, they invest more energy in reproduction rather than growth.

AGE (YEARS)	APPROX. AVERAGE LENGTH	APPROX. LENGTH RANGE
1	25.75"	24" - 29"
2	31.75"	30" - 32"
3	36"	34" - 38"
4	40"	38" - 40"
5	41.75"	40.5" - 43"
6	43"	41" - 45"
7	43.25"	41" - 46"
8	45"	43" - 47"
9	46"	44" - 48"
10+	47.5"	46" - 49"

Harris, Patrick, et al, “Age, growth, and reproduction of greater amberjack, *Seriola dumerili*, off the Atlantic coast of the southeastern United States.” Southeast Fisheries Science Center; NOAA; National Marine Fisheries Service; Ed Palmer, Sandraw 2008; Southeast Fisheries Science Center 7 Jul 2012; <[HTTP://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/download/SE-DAR%2015-RD01.pdf](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/download/SE-DAR%2015-RD01.pdf)>id=DOCUMENT>



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels supports Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities.

Louisiana Department of
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This public document was published at a total cost of \$0.00. ? copies of this public document were published and partially paid for by a Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Grant (F-136) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this first printing at a cost of \$0.00. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, to inform Louisiana residents and non-residents about the Sport Fish Restoration Program. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies.



Greater Amberjack Quick Facts

Louisiana’s state record greater amberjack weighed in at 139 pounds and was caught offshore in May of 2009.

Greater amberjack can live up to 15 years.

In the Gulf of America, greater amberjack can grow up to five feet long. Female greater amberjack are typically a few inches larger than males of the same age.

LDWF Contact Information

Recreational Fishing License
225-765-2887

Commercial License
225-765-2898

Boating Registration
225-765-2898

Lifetime License
225-765-2887

Enforcement
225-765-2989

Fish Tagging Program
225-763-5415