



# Alewife

*Alosa pseudoharengus*



## **Description:**

- ◆ silver fish with bronze to olive back
- ◆ similar to the blueback herring
- ◆ deep body with large eye
- ◆ pearl to pale gray peritoneum (lining of abdominal cavity)

## **Size:**

- ◆ up to 15 inches

## **Range:**

- ◆ Atlantic coast from Red Bay, Labrador, Canada to South Carolina
- ◆ landlocked populations exist in Lake Ontario, NY's Finger Lakes and other freshwater lakes

## **Facts:**

- ◆ anadromous fish (spends adult life in salt water but spawn in freshwater)
- ◆ begin traveling upriver in the spring to spawn
- ◆ at one month of age, young begin to move downstream
- ◆ females usually reach full maturity by age 5, males by 3 or 4
- ◆ each mature female produces between 60,000 and 100,000 eggs, depending on her size
- ◆ tend to spawn in the same stream in which they hatched
- ◆ will eat plankton, small crustaceans, and some small fish



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*Alosa pseudoharengus*

Year	Total Caught
1982	66
1983	8
1984	1
1985	7
1986	40
1987	34
1988	1,151
1989	116
1990	360
1991	546
1992	9
1993	358
1994	198
1995	99
1996	4,173
1997	75
1998	22
1999	427
2000	58
2001	596
2002	2
2003	722
2004	136
2005	1,291
2006	5
2007	988
2008	3,182
2009	269
2010	17
2011	325
2012	3
2013	16
2014	172
2015	328
2017	55
2018	354
2019	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,221</b>

**For more information about alewife, please check out these articles:**

River Herring Status: Research Holds the Key

<https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2018/digmar6-13.pdf>

Last Call for River Herring

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2011/digmar23-30.pdf>