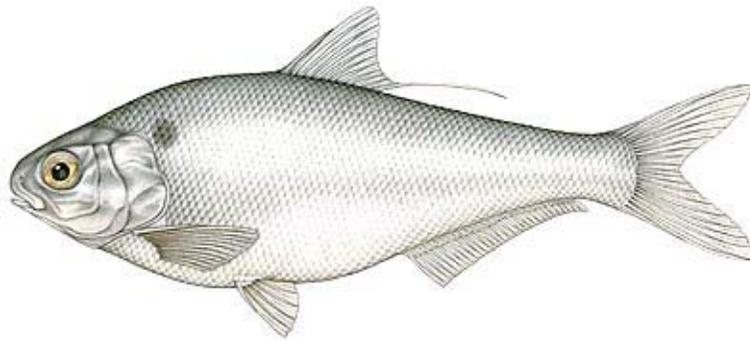


“Shad” Caught at Power Plant

It is usually at this time of year (first week of March) that reports of shad being caught are made by American shad anglers taking advantage of the warm water effluent at the Mercer Generating Station on the Delaware River in Trenton. Later, there are reports from other rivers of “shad” jumping dams. They are indeed shad, usually Gizzard shad.

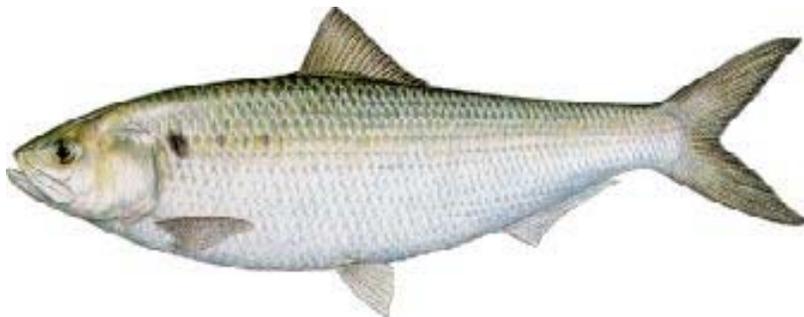


Gizzard Shad (*Dorsoma cepedianum*)

Many anglers have never seen these shad because they rarely hit lures. They are usually snagged, especially if concentrated, perhaps at the base of a dam or in a warm water discharge. Gizzard shad will jump dams; American shad will not.

Gizzard shad have an elongated last ray of the dorsal (top) fin, and have a smaller mouth and a blunter snout than American shad. Cut Gizzard shad, especially the guts, are considered one of the best channel catfish baits.

Gizzard shad grow very quickly. In lakes they become too large for predators to consume. Muskies, tiger muskies and/or northern pike are often stocked to reduce their numbers. Gizzard shad are intolerant of cold water temperatures. Spawned in the late spring into the summer, the young, and some adults, usually do not survive a cold winter unless congregated in a warm water discharge.



American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*)