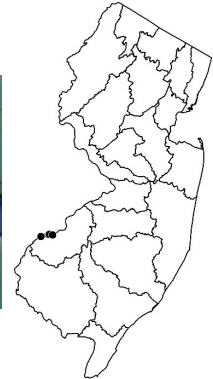


Hickory Shad (*Alosa mediocris*)

Historical Presence	Abundance	Life History	Management
Native	Common	Anadromous	Sport

General Information

An anadromous and river specific shad species, it has an elongate and compressed body, and deeply forked tail. Hickory Shad can be distinguished from the similarly related American Shad, by a lower jaw that projects beyond its upper jaw. Hickory Shad are the least common of the Atlantic Coast shad species, and it has no commercial or recreational importance north of Chesapeake Bay.



Geographic Range

Atlantic Coast from Kenduskeag R., ME, to St. Johns R., FL.

Habitat Description

Saltwater except during spring and fall when they ascend large coastal rivers to spawn, occupying open water. Juveniles may linger in lower rivers, sounds, and bays before migrating to the sea. Spawning can occur as far as 200 km upstream from estuaries in creeks, ponds, lakes, and backwaters along major river systems.

Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	5.7 – 11.8 mg/L (river)
Temperature	< 21 °C (ocean)
pH	
Turbidity	
Current	≥ 0.1 m/s (river)

Diet

Fry	Zooplankton
Juveniles	Small fishes, fish eggs, crabs, squids,
Adults	pelagic crustaceans
Notes: Mainly feeds on fishes	

Reproduction

Time of Year	March – June	Age Males Mature	2 – 5
Temperature Range	11.0 – 18.9 °C	Age Females Mature	2 – 5
Water Depth	≤ 1 m	Nest	None
Substrate	Gravel/cobble/boulder	Egg Type	Semi-demersal (semi-adhesive)
Time of Day	Daylight	Parental Care	None
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	2 – 3.2
Velocity Range	0.20 – 0.39 m/s	Oxygen Level	> 5 mg/L

Notes: Broadcast spawn in both tributary and main-channel habitats. Spawning may occur once or several times in an individual's life span.

Size and Growth

Adults typically 285-450 mm, up to a maximum of 600mm. Maximum age up to 7 years.

References

(Manooch and Raver 1984; Harris et al. 2007; Greene et al. 2009; Harris and Hightower 2011)

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