

What Does this Species Look Like?

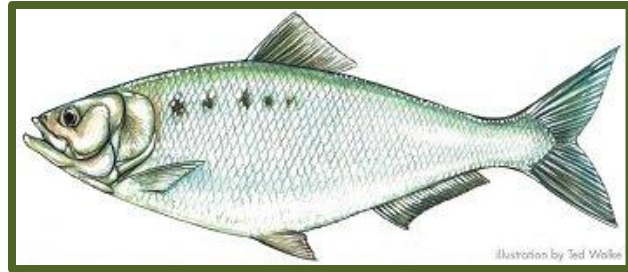
Size: 29.5 inches

Weight: 2- 5 pounds

Color: Green or blackish-blue on top, silver on the sides and belly

General: One dorsal fin; adults have no teeth

Usually Found: Atlantic Ocean for the majority of the year, the Delaware River in the spring



Did You Know?

- The American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) is an anadromous fish, meaning it spends most of its life in saltwater, but spawns in freshwater.
- Every spring, the shad migrates thousands of miles to spawn. This occurs at the same time as the plant the shadbush (also known as the serviceberry) blooms.
- The shad population has been affected by dams, water pollution, and overfishing. Fortunately, do to recent restoration efforts, the fish population is rebounding in many rivers.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- Adults migrating upstream

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this fish is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:

Phenology Blog:

<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>

or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

(www.usanpn.org)