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Alosa aestivalis (Mitchill, 1814)

Blueback shad

[Catalog of Fishes](#) | [ITIS](#) | [CoL](#)

Classification [Chordata](#) | [Actinopterygii](#) | [Clupeidae](#)
Synonyms [Clupea aestivalis](#), [Pomolobus aestivalis](#), ... [more](#)
Common names [Alose d'été du Canada](#), [Sábalo del Canadá](#), [Blueback glut herring](#), ... [more](#)



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Picture by [Flescher, D.](#)



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[Native range](#) | [All suitable habitat](#) | [PointMap](#) | [Year 2050](#) |



This map was computer-generated and has not yet been reviewed.

[AquaMaps](#) Data sources: [GBIF](#) [OBIS](#)

Main reference

[Whitehead, P.J.P. 1985.](#) (Ref. [188](#))

[Other references](#) | [Biblio](#) | [Coordinator](#) | [Collaborators](#)

Size / Weight / Age

40.0 cm SL male/unsexed; (Ref. [7251](#)); max. published weight: 200 g (Ref. [7251](#)); max. reported age: 8 years (Ref. [12193](#))

Environment

Pelagic-neritic; anadromous (Ref. [51243](#)); freshwater; brackish; marine; depth range 5 - 55 m (Ref. [5951](#))

Climate / Range

Subtropical; 41°N - 25°N, 84°W - 60°W (Ref. [188](#))

Distribution

Western Atlantic: Cape Breton, Nova Scotia south to the St. John's River, Florida; also in lower parts of rivers.

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Short description

Dorsal spines (total): 0; **Dorsal soft rays** (total): 15 - 20; **Anal spines**: 0; **Anal soft rays**: 15 - 21;

Vertebrae: 47 - 53. Moderately compressed, belly with distinct keel of scutes. Upper jaw with a distinct notch; lower jaw rising steeply within mouth; minute teeth present at front of jaws (disappearing with age). Lower gill rakers 41 to 52 (fewer in fishes under 10 cm standard length), slender. Back dark blue, sometimes bluish-grey; a dark spot on shoulder (Ref. [188](#)). Peritoneum black (Ref. [7251](#)).

Branchiostegal rays 7 (Ref. [4639](#)).

Biology

Form schools and possibly wintering near the bottom and out from the coast, approaching the shore in the late spring. Feed on small fishes, copepods and small shrimps. Spawn in brackish- or freshwaters of rivers, arriving in coastal waters a month or so later than *A. pseudoharengus* (in April at Chesapeake Bay, apparently when the water is above 70° C and later further north). Eggs are essentially pelagic, demersal in still water (Ref. [4639](#)). Larvae are found in fresh and brackish rivers (Ref. [4639](#)). Juveniles leave fresh and brackish nursery grounds at about 5 cm, migrating downstream (Ref. [4639](#)). Marketed

Glossary

(e.g. epibenthic)

mostly fresh and salted (Ref. 188). Parasites found are acanthocephalan and nematodes (Ref. 37032).

IUCN Red List Status (Ref. 57073)

Not Evaluated

Threat to humans

Harmless

Human uses

Fisheries: commercial

More information

Ecology	Reproduction	AgeSize	Aquaculture	Ciguatera
Diet	Maturity	Growth	Aquaculture profile	Speed
Food items	Spawning	Length-weight	Strains	Swim. type
Food consumption	Eggs	Length-length	Genetics	Gill area
Ration	Egg development	Length-frequencies	Allele frequencies	Brains
Metabolism	Larvae	Morphometrics	Heritability	Vision
Predators	Larval dynamics	Morphology	Diseases	
Ecotoxicology	Recruitment		Processing	

Tools

[Biogeographic modelling](#) | [E-book](#) | [Field guide](#) | [Identification keys](#) | [Length-frequency wizard](#) | [Life-history tool](#) | [LifeMapper](#) | [Point map](#)

Special reports

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Internet sources

[BOLDSystems](#) | [Check for other websites](#) | [Check FishWatcher](#) | [CISTI](#) | [DiscoverLife](#) | [ECOTOX](#) | [FAO\(Fisheries: landing statistics\)](#) | [GenBank\(genome, nucleotide\)](#) | [GOBASE](#) | [Google Books](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [Google](#) | [ispecies](#) | [PubMed](#) | [Scirus](#) | [Sea Around Us](#) | [SeaLifeBase](#) | [Tree of Life](#) | [uBio](#) | [uBio RSS](#) | [Wikipedia\(Go, Search\)](#) | [Zoological Record](#)

Estimation of some characteristics with mathematical models

Resilience (Ref. 69278)

Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.18; tm=4; Fec=45,800)

Vulnerability (Ref. 59153)

High vulnerability (56 of 100)

Price category (Ref. 80766)

Low

Entered by [Binohlan, Crispina B.](#)

Modified by [Kesner-Reyes, Kathleen](#)

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Page last modified by : [elaxamana](#), 14 May 2009