



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- spend adult life in salt water but spawn in freshwater
- ◆ begin traveling upriver in the spring to spawn
- ◆ at a 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

ALEWIFE CATCH TOTALS

YEAR	TOTAL CAUGHT
1982	83
1983	12
1984	4
1985	13
1986	65
1987	61
1988	1,589
1989	162
1990	595
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
Grand Total	15,757

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Marine Fisheries
www.NJFishandWildlife.com