



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 (spends adult life in salt water but spawn in freshwater)
- ◆ begin traveling upriver in the spring to spawn
- ◆ at one 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
- ◆ tend to spawn in the same stream in which they hatched
- ◆ will eat plankton, small crustaceans, and some small fish

ALEWIFE CATCH TOTALS

YEAR	TOTAL CAUGHT
1982	66
1983	8
1984	1
1985	7
1986	40
1987	34
1988	1151
1989	116
1990	360
1991	546
1992	9
1993	358
1994	198
1995	99
1996	4173
1997	75
1998	22
1999	427
2000	58
2001	596
2002	2
2003	722
2004	136
2005	1291
2006	5
2007	988
2008	3182
2009	269
2010	17
2011	325
2012	3
2013	16
2014	172
2015	328
Grand Total	15800

For more information about alewife, please check out this article:

Last Call for River Herring

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2011/digmar23-30.pdf>

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