

Blueback herring

Alosa aestivalis

Description

Stocked as food for game fish in southern reservoirs; discovered in Lake Ontario in 1995 (entering via the New York State Canal System); likely to find suitable habitat throughout the Great Lakes, except possibly the deeper waters of Lake Superior. Spread by the release of live bait; range expansion along interconnected waterways.

Identification

5-12 inches; silvery, deep bluish-green back; scutes along belly; lower jaw rises steeply, no teeth.

Habitat

Native to the Atlantic Coast. Found in deep, open waters; spawns spring to early summer in rivers and streams.

Reproduction



Impact

Introduction coincided with a decrease in game fish, such as largemouth bass and walleye. They prey on eggs and larvae of native fish and feeds heavily on zooplankton, the food for young native fish.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Clean, drain, dry.

Credits

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