**Alosa aestivalis**  (Mitchell, 1814)

**Blueback shad**

### 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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### Main reference
- Whitehead, P.J.P. 1985. (Ref. 188)

### Other references
- Bibliography | 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.

### Short description
- **Dorsal spines** (total): 0; **Dorsal soft rays** (total): 15 - 20; **Anal spines**: 0; **Anal soft rays**: 15 - 21; **Vertebræ**: 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...
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
- Age
- Size
- Aquaculture
- Ciguatera
- Diet
- Maturity
- Growth
- Aquaculture profile
- Speed
- Food items
- Spawning
- Length-weight
- Strains
- Swim. type
- Food consumption
- Eggs
- Length-length
- Genes
- 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**
- Check for Aquarium maintenance
- Check for Species Fact Sheets
- Check for Aquaculture Fact Sheets

**Download XML**
- Summary page
- Point data
- Common names
- Photos

**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