**Range Map**

(Provided by [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#))

ALEWIFE

Alosa pseudoharengus

Low

Conservation Status
Low Concern

FACT ONE



The Alewife is an anadromous fish. Although it spends most of its life in saltwater, the alewife migrates upstream to spawn in freshwater.

FACT TWO



Females produce up to 250,000 eggs but survival rate is about 1%. Alewife eggs are an important food source for other species!

FACT THREE



Alewives will travel up to 1,200 miles every Spring to reproduce in the same rivers in streams where they were born.

FACT FOUR

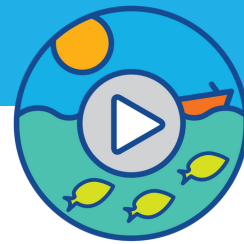


River dams can block Alewife migration to spawning grounds and are the biggest threat the species faces today.

For more information about the Alewife:

Animal Diversity Web

https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Alosa_pseudoharengus/



Overview

Alewives are an Anadromous fish about 10-12 inches long, with a slender body and deeply forked tail. They are mostly silver but have a dark spot behind their gills. Predators of the Alewife include marine mammals, larger fish, river otters, osprey and eagles. Alewives mainly feed on zooplankton, shrimp, small fish and fish eggs.

Life History

Diadromous fish are species that split their life cycle between fresh and saltwater. **Anadromous** fish hatch in freshwater but spend most of their life in saltwater. **Catadromous** fish are the opposite. The average lifespan of the Alewife is 8-10 years. They begin spawning at 3-5 years old, and have 4-6 migrations during their lifetime.

Status

Alewife populations have dropped from historical levels across Long Island. Over fishing and by-catch are the main concerns in saltwater habitats, while migration barriers (e.g. dams and culverts) prevent migration inland. However, since the removal of obsolete dams and construction of fish passages, populations are recovering.

How You Can Help

Alewives are ecologically and commercially significant! By helping the Alewife, you're not only helping other species' but also local baymen. Did you know the Alewife is the preferred bait for lobstermen? Volunteer with local organizations to monitor alewife populations and always follow your local fishing regulations!

The Alewife is an ecologically and commercially significant species that faces threats such as migration barriers, bycatch and habitat degradation.








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