

Dedicated to the Memory of Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.



PIDAY

SUMMER
2005

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

PA's Most Mighty Migratory Fish

by Walt Dietz

Which fish would you think of if you were asked to imagine one of Pennsylvania's most important and interesting fishes?



Maybe even the mighty **muskellunge**? What about the state's official fish, the **brook trout**?



Would the popular **smallmouth bass** come to mind?



Here's a hint: This fish once had a significant effect on our state and nation's economy. It still does. And it's had its share of obstacles over the years. How about the **American shad**?

The American shad is one of our state's most important fishes. It was once caught and eaten by Native Americans. Later, an entire fishing industry thrived around it and it fed many people. Is there any wonder why its scientific name is *Alosa sapidissima*, which is Latin for "shad, good to eat"? It's also important in the ecosystem as predator and prey. Today it serves as a great sportfish for many anglers. And it's even good for our state's outdoor recreation economy.

The American shad may not have been your first guess to the question about Pennsylvania's most important and interesting fishes. But you might change your mind once you take a closer look at this great fish. Read on to learn more about the story of the American shad!

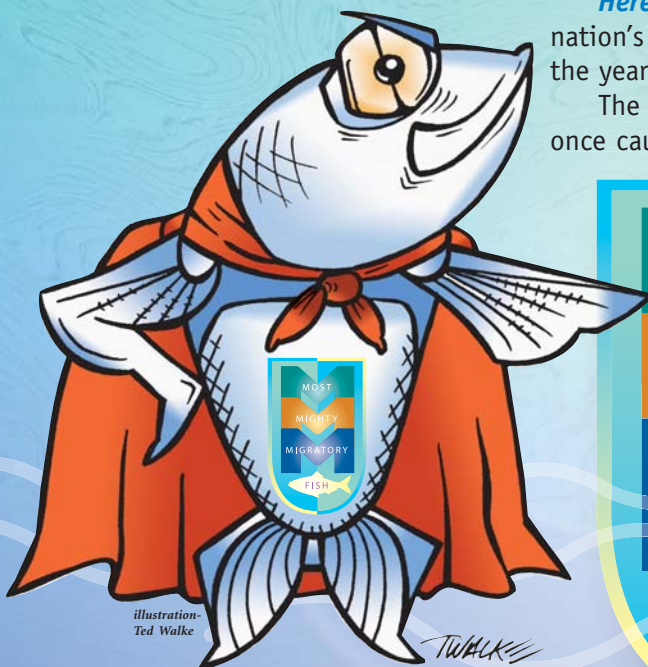


illustration-
Ted Walke

TWALK



www.fish.state.pa.us