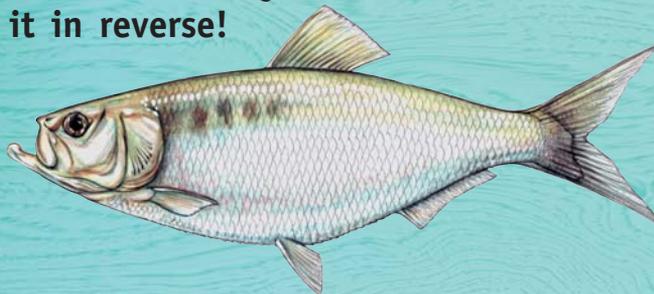




PA's  
Most  
Mighty  
Migratory  
Fish

# Many More Migratory Fish

American shad aren't the only fish that migrate up and down Pennsylvania's waterways. You might be surprised to learn how many fish move between the Atlantic Ocean and our state's waterways. One fish even does it in reverse!



**Hickory shad** (*Alosa mediocris*). This endangered shad is slightly smaller than the American shad, reaching lengths of around 15 inches. This shad prefers to eat small fish.



**Alewife** (*Alosa pseudoharengus*). This shad prefers to spawn in smaller tributaries and slack water. A "landlocked" form of the alewife has been stocked into lakes across the state as forage for gamefish.



**Blueback herring** (*Alosa aestivalis*). This herring looks like the alewife, but it's slightly bigger. It migrates to the lower Delaware River and Delaware estuary.

**Paddlefish** (*Polyodon spatula*). This bizarre-looking critter migrates up and down the Allegheny and Ohio rivers in search of plankton to eat.



illustration-Ted Walke

**Gizzard shad** (*Dorosoma cepedianum*). This herring is a bit different from the others. It has a muscular gizzardlike stomach to process plankton and plant food that it strains from the water.



**Striped bass** (*Morone saxatilis*). This fish can live up to 30 years and reach sizes of 4 feet long and 50 pounds! It spawns near tidal tributaries. Small stripers may move up rivers to feed during the summer. Landlocked stripers can be found in some of our state's bigger lakes.



**Atlantic sturgeon** (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*). This prehistoric fish is endangered. It can reach huge sizes up to 14 feet long! It migrates to the lower reaches of the Delaware River to spawn.



**American eel** (*Anguilla rostrata*). The eel does things in reverse. It is catadromous (cat-'tad-dromus), which means "down-running." It spends most of its life in fresh water and then migrates to the Atlantic Ocean's Sargasso Sea to spawn.

