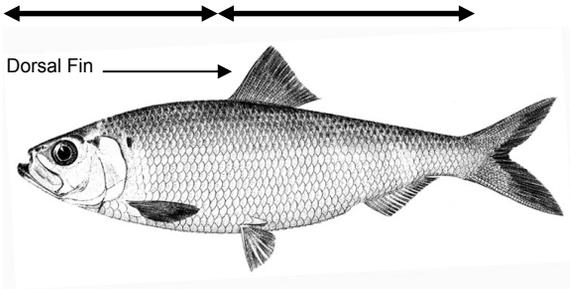


HERRING SPECIES OF MASSACHUSETTS: EASY WAYS TO IDENTIFY THEM



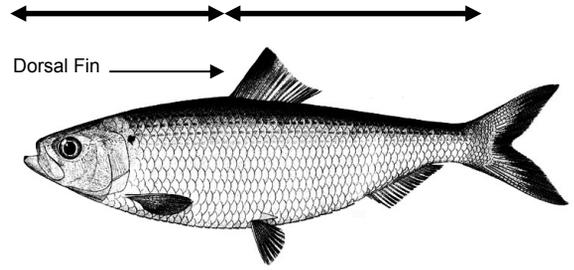
Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*)

Description: Gray to gray-green dorsal color, eye width greater than distance from front of eye to tip of snout, distinct round dark spot behind gill cover, lining of body cavity is light colored, belly sharp (saw-toothed)

Size: Up to 15 inches, generally larger than bluebacks

Habitat: Found in marine and fresh waters (rivers, lakes, and coastal waters – mainly in ponds and deep pools)

Regulations: **Illegal to take, possess or sell**



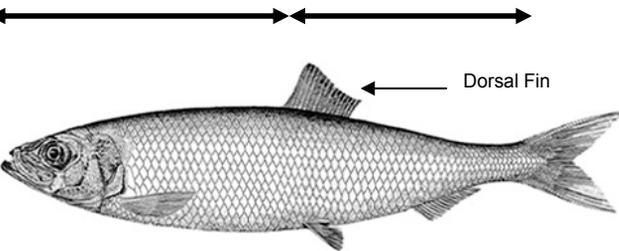
Blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*)

Description: Blue-black to blue-green dorsal color, eye width is equal to distance from front of eye to tip of snout, dark spot behind gill cover is less distinct, lining of body cavity is dark colored, belly sharp (saw-toothed)

Size: Up to 15 inches, generally smaller than alewives

Habitat: Found in marine and fresh waters (coastal waters and rivers with swift moving waters over hard substrate)

Regulations: **Illegal to take, possess or sell**



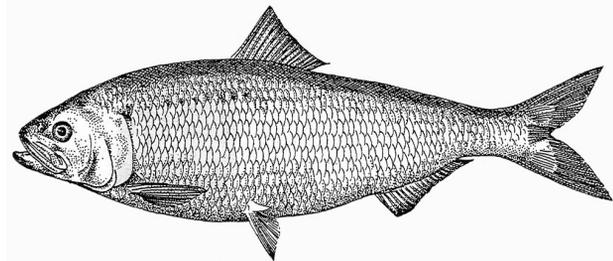
Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*)

Description: Body elongate, dorsal fin is located closer to tail fin in comparison to the other herrings, moderate-size eye, no distinctive spots on body or fins, lining of body cavity is dusky, belly not distinctly sharp

Size: Up to 17 inches and 1½ pounds

Habitat: Found exclusively in marine (coastal and offshore) waters, with some populations entering brackish waters, not in fresh water

Regulations: No recreational fishing restrictions



American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*)

Description: Body relatively deep, eye relatively small, 4-7 distinct dark spots behind gill cover, pale to silvery colored lining of body cavity

Size: Up to 30 inches and 13½ pounds

Habitat: Found in marine and fresh waters (coastal waters and in rivers with shallow water with moderate current speed)

Regulations: Six fish possession limit, no minimum size restrictions

