

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

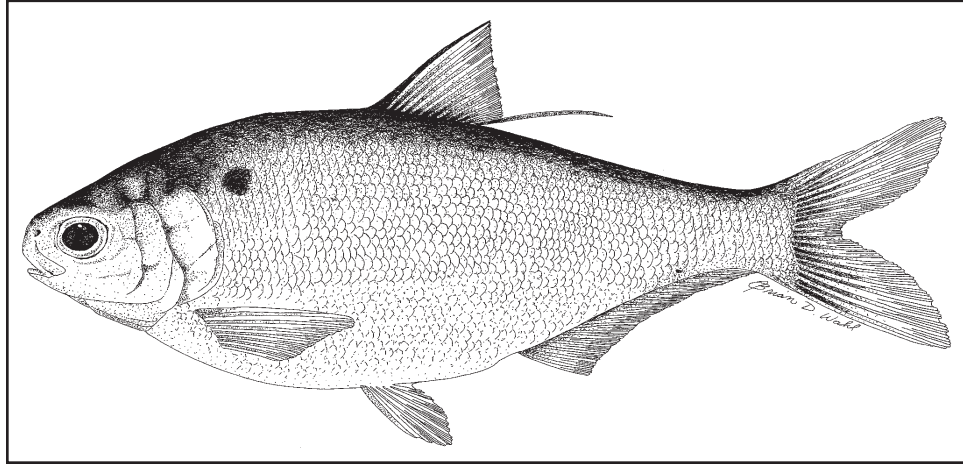
Division of Wildlife

Life History Notes

Gizzard Shad

Common Names: Shad, Herring, Skipjack, Hickory shad

Scientific Name: *Dorsoma cepedianum*



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Identification:

Gizzard shad do not resemble any other fish in Ohio. They are a silvery colored fish with the last ray of the dorsal fin greatly elongated. The snout is well rounded and the small mouth points down. There is also a round black spot located on the side of the body behind the head.

Range and Habitat:

Gizzard shad are found throughout Ohio in Lake Erie tributaries with low gradients. They have also been stocked in numerous impoundments throughout Ohio.

Life History:

Gizzard shad usually spawn in May by broadcasting as many as 500,000 eggs into the water column. Adults are filter feeders that remove microscopic animals and algae by passing water through their gill rakers.

Adult Size:

Gizzard shad average 5 to 10 ounces but some fish can get as large as 3 pounds.

Fishing Methods:

Gizzard shad are not sought by sport anglers, but they are targeted as a bait fish.