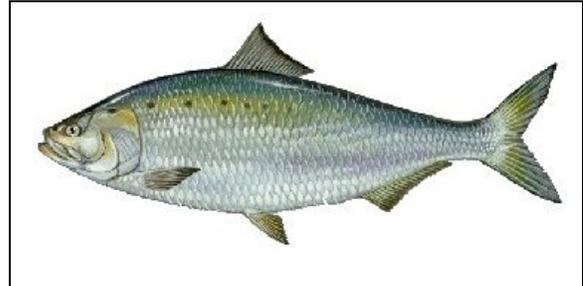


Priorities: Delaware River Watershed Focus Area

The Delaware River, historically, appears to have had the largest spawning population of American shad in the United States. The population was dramatically reduced in early/mid 1900s due to a variety of factors including: over harvest, pollution, habitat destruction, blockage of rivers by dams, and entrainment/impingement on water-use facilities. With improvements in water quality due to sewage treatment and other factors, the shad population has been increasing since the 1970s. The Delaware is the longest un-dammed river east of the Mississippi, extending 330 miles from the confluence of its East and West branches at Hancock, N.Y. to the mouth of the Delaware Bay where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. Although the main stem is un-dammed, hundreds of dams still block passage along its tributaries. Many of these are low head dams under private ownership and in poor condition. In addition there are opportunities to restore riparian habitat which benefits both fish habitat and migratory songbirds. And there are opportunities to conserve and restore bog turtle habitat. This can include protecting habitat, invasive species control, restoring hydrology, and removing trees and applying other techniques that maintain succession of plant communities at a desirable stage.



Images: US Fish & Wildlife Service

Key Species: American shad
American eel
Alewife
Blueback herring
Bog turtle

5 year goals (FY2007 through FY2011): Restore 1.2 miles riparian
Complete 1 fish passage project

Delaware Bay Estuary Project US Fish & Wildlife Service

