

Gizzard Shad

Dorosoma cepedianum



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ADULT SIZE

Typically 4-16 inches, but occasionally they can grow larger.

TYPICAL FOODS

Filter feed on phytoplankton and zooplankton. Larger fish add algae and decaying organic matter to that diet. They also eat sand, which probably helps grind up food in their gizzard-like stomach.

FISHING TIP

Shad are a very important prey fish for species like walleye and other predator fish and birds in Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River. Being primarily filter feeders, they usually accidentally snagged when caught by anglers. Gizzard shad often die off naturally in incredible numbers from late fall through early spring during rapid swings in temperature.

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