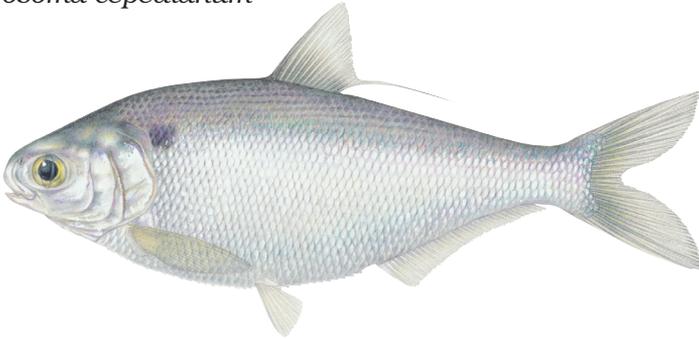


HERRING (family Clupeidae)

Gizzard shad

Dorosoma cepedianum



Similar Species: Goldeye, mooneye

Identification: Silvery compressed body, sharp or pointed scales on belly, last ray of dorsal (back) fin is elongated (unlike the goldeye and mooneye which have no dorsal fin projection).

South Dakota is close to the northern limit of distribution for this fish species, which is found only in the Missouri River system up to Lake Oahe and in a few other rivers and lakes. Gizzard shad are important prey fish in many impoundments throughout the U.S. Although adults can grow to 1 or 2 pounds, most die during their first winter in South Dakota because of cold water temperatures. Young gizzard shad typically reach 2 to 4 inches by late summer. They form large schools of several thousand fish and are heavily preyed upon by fishes such as crappies, walleyes, and northern pike. Gizzard shad spawn in the spring, usually over flooded terrestrial vegetation in shallow water. They feed primarily on microscopic plants and animals and also obtain food from decaying organic material on lake bottoms. They are rarely caught by anglers.

