

History of the Creek

1693 - "The fishermen of Duxbury, shall clear Island Creek brook, that said men shall have the liberty to get herring for bait from time to time."

1702 - The town gave the liberty to enjoin Seabury to make a dam upon Island Creek Pond brook provided that he leave sufficient and free passage for herring to travel up and down.

1736 - Justice Arnold and Thomas Loring cleared the Mill brook and Island Creek brook, to make them more convenient and passable for the herring. They then brought an account of their work to the next town meeting.

1757 - Mr. Blaine Philips and Thomas were chosen to see and take care of the herring brooks and to see that people only catch herring on Mondays and Fridays between sunrise and sunset near the tails of the mills.

1765 - Deacon Peleg Wadsworth and Thomas Chandler were chosen to take care of Island Creek herring brook. In addition, the town passed laws to regulate when the creek water could be stopped and where fish could be caught.

1877 - David Cushman became Fish Commissioner. Cobb & Drew and Alonzo Chandler R.R. Holmes were paid by the town to stock Island Creek Pond with alewives and salmon.

1879 - B.B Cushing was payed by the town to clear out Island Creek brook. Also, he and David Chandler were payed to cart herring to Island Creek brook.

1908 - Selectmen choose a committee to protect the interests of the town with regard to the herring way.

1945 - Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200 for necessary repairs to the fish ladder at Cushing's Ice Pond, including the approaches to Island Creek Pond.

2004 - Troop 62 of Duxbury cleared Island Creek of debris to make easier passage for fish.

2006 - Troop 62 cleared Island Creek. Fish Ladder at Mill Pond was reconstructed. An additional step was added to Island Creek near its intersection with Elm St.

2007 - Signage constructed and educational information posted at the Island Creek Pond as part of Chad Conway's Eagle Scout Project.

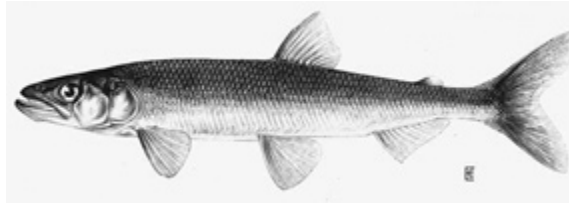
Information from:

Island Creek Fish Ladder Short History *by: Tony Kelso*

The Fish of the Creek

Rainbow Smelt

(*Osmerus Mordax*)



Description: slender, elongated body, forked tail fin, adipose fin (a soft, fleshy fin behind the dorsal fin), large mouth, and numerous large teeth, pale green back with silvery and rainbow like colors along its body.

Habitat: Anadromous, live in saltwater, and spawn in fresh water. Usually found in dark, cool depths (40-50 degrees Fahrenheit). In the fall they travel to estuaries, inland lakes, and streams for the winter until the spawning period in the spring. After spawning, they spend the summers along the coast, normally in waters no more than 20 feet deep and no more than a mile from shore.

Adult Length: 7-9 in.

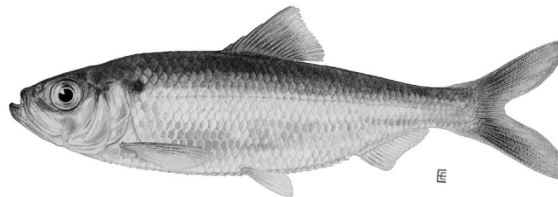
Adult Weight: 2-3 oz.

Food Preference: Plankton, insects, small fish, fish eggs.

Spawning Period: When temperatures reach 45 degrees Fahrenheit which is usually in early to mid April.

Alewife

(*Alosa pseudoharengus*)



Description: Gray to gray-green dorsal fin, deep bluish green back, one dusky spot on shoulder behind gills, and light colored belly. Eye diameter is greater than the distance from the front of the eye to the tip of snout, short based dorsal fin, forked tail fin, and sharp saw toothed belly.

(Alewife Continued)

Habitat: Anadromous, live in saltwater, and spawn in fresh water. Found in rivers, lakes, and coastal waters, mainly in ponds and deep pools with little or no current.

Adult Length: 10-15 in. Tend to be larger than blueback.

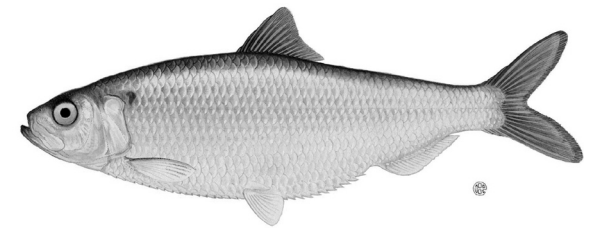
Adult Weight: 8-9 oz.

Food Preference: Plankton, insects, small fish, fish eggs.

Spawning Period: When temperatures reach 55 degrees Fahrenheit which is usually in late March to early April.

Blueback Herring

(*Alosa Aestivalis*)



Description: Blue-black to blue green dorsal color, one dusky spot on shoulder behind gills however not as distinct as the Alewife's, and light colored belly. Eye diameter is equal to the distance from the front of the eye to the tip of snout, short based dorsal fin, forked tail fin, and sharp saw toothed belly.

Habitat: Anadromous, live in saltwater, and spawn in fresh water. Found in coastal waters and rivers with swift moving water over a hard surface.

Adult Length: 10-15 in. Tend to be smaller than alewife.

Adult Weight: 8-9 oz.

Food Preference: Plankton, insects, small fish, fish eggs.

Spawning Period: When temperatures reach 65 degrees Fahrenheit which is usually in late April to early May.