



# AMERICAN SHAD

*Alosa sapidissima*

**OFFICIAL FISH OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

A species naturally distributed on the North American coast of the Atlantic ocean, the shad spends most of its life in the ocean, but swims up fresh rivers to spawn. The American shad has been described as "the fish that fed the nation's founders." Adult shad weigh between 3 and 8 lbs.