



**American Shad** (*Alosa sapidissima*)

\*Native \*DC Conservation Priority

**Habitat:** Mostly found in coastal waters but move annually into freshwater rivers and streams to spawn (breed).

**Diet:** In the ocean: primarily plankton, but also crustaceans, small fish, and fish eggs. Their eating habits change during their migration into rivers to spawn.

**Coloration:** Usually silvery on the sides with light olive to bluish shades over the back. There is usually a horizontal row of four to six dark spots located behind the shoulder spot.

**Size:** 2 feet and 2-5 pounds

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**Channel Catfish** (*Ictalurus punctatus*)

\*Non-Native \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Freshwater streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, particularly in deep pools and among rocks where they can hide; will also use brackish water habitat.

**Diet:** Fish, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans and other invertebrates.

**Coloration:** Sides of the body are light blue to brownish-black with scattered dark olive spots.

**Size:** 15-30 inches and 3-5 pounds

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**Largemouth Bass** (*Micropterus salmoides*)

\*Non-Native \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Freshwater or brackish water in slow moving rivers or streams as well as ponds and lakes; prefers clear water and ample submerged aquatic vegetation.

**Diet:** Predator of smaller fish, worms, insects, amphibians and reptiles.

**Coloration:** Olive to dark green in color, with a dark horizontal band of blotches from head to tail.

**Size:** 16-20 inches and 1-5 pounds

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**Striped Bass** (*Morone saxatilis*)

\*Native \*DC Conservation Priority \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and along the Atlantic coast.

**Diet:** Top predator, eats worms, fish, squid, and crustaceans.

**Coloration:** Greenish-olive on back shading into greenish-silver on light silver sides, a white belly. It also has black spots, forming six to seven unbroken stripes behind the head.

**Size:** 2-4 feet and 10-50 pounds



**Walleye** (*Sander vitreus*)

\*Non-Native \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Cool, deep, quiet waters of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs

**Diet:** Smaller fish, crustaceans, and insects

**Coloration:** The body is yellow-olive with irregular spots that usually join to form a series of dark blotches extending to the back. The membranes between the last two to three spines are black. The tip of the lower caudal lobe is white.

**Size:** 2.5-3 feet and 5-10 pounds

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**Northern Snakehead** (*Channa argus*)

\*Invasive

**Habitat:** Freshwater ponds, swamps and slow streams with mud and cover.

**Diet:** Predator of other fish, crustaceans, amphibians, reptiles and occasionally birds and small mammals (obligate carnivore).

**Coloration:** Golden tan to pale brown in hue, with black spots on the flanks and saddle-like patches on the back. Blotches in the front tend to split into top and bottom pieces, but blotches in the back are more likely to be continuous.

**Size:** 3 feet and 19 pounds

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**Muskellunge** (*Esox masquinongy*)

\*Non-Native \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Lakes and large freshwater rivers.

**Diet:** Primarily fish but also crayfish, frogs, snakes, ducklings, small birds, muskrat and other small mammals.

**Coloration:** Brown, green, or pale silver with black vertical stripes on the flank that might disintegrate into individual spots.

**Size:** 3 feet and 15-36 pounds

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**Longnose Gar** (*Lepisosteus osseus*)

\*Native \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Freshwater and brackish water in medium to large streams, rivers, lakes and estuaries.

**Diet:** Predator of fish, crayfish, crabs, insects and frogs (obligate carnivore).

**Coloration:** Olive brown to green, with a torpedo-shaped body covered with ganoid scales; the elongated jaws create a needle-like snout that is about three times the length of the head; and on either side of the upper jaw is a row of several sharp, cone-shaped teeth.

**Size:** 5-6 feet and 50 pounds



**Bluegill** (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

\*Non-Native \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Slow-moving freshwaters including lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers. Sometimes found in brackish water as well.

**Diet:** Insects, spiders, crayfish, fish eggs and small fish.

**Coloration:** Golden tan to pale brown in hue, with black spots on the flanks and saddle-like patches on the back. Blotches in the front tend to split into top and bottom pieces, but blotches in the back are more likely to be continuous.

**Size:** 7-15 inches and 8 ounces

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**Warmouth** (*Lepomis gulosus*)

\*Non-Native \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Freshwater streams, ponds, lakes, canals, marshes and swamps. Prefer areas with soft, muddy bottoms and to hide among cover offered by aquatic vegetation, rootwads, snags and undercut banks.

**Diet:** Insects, worms, crayfish and smaller fishes.

**Coloration:** Dark, with a mottled brown coloring. It has a golden belly in general, and the male has a brilliant orange patch at the base of the dorsal fin. The eyes have three to five reddish-brown lines radiating from them, and the gill flaps are frequently crimson.

**Size:** 4-10 inches and 2 pounds

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**Longear Sunfish** (*Lepomis megalotis*)

\*Non-Native \*DC Sportfish

**Habitat:** Sluggish freshwater streams and rivers as well as densely vegetated, shallow waters in lakes and ponds.

**Diet:** Insects, aquatic invertebrates, and small fish.

**Coloration:** An olive to rusty-brown back, a bright orange belly, and blue-green stripes on the sides of its head. Their extended gill flap gives the impression of a "long ear".

**Size:** 5-8 inches and <6 ounces