

American shad  
Overview for the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission  
April 28, 2016  
Maryland DNR Fisheries Service

**Most recent stock status AMSFC:** depleted, overfishing unknown

**Management notes:** Maryland closed the American shad fishery in 1980. In 2010 ASMFC approved Amendment 3 to the Shad & River Herring FMP which prohibits shad commercial and recreational fisheries in state waters beginning January 1, 2013, unless a state or jurisdiction has a Sustainable Fishery Management Plan (SFMP) reviewed by the Technical Committee and approved by the Management Board. A SFMP must include a description of existing and planned monitoring and existing and planned regulatory measures. The following states/jurisdictions have Shad SFMPs: Connecticut, Delaware River & plans indicate metrics for demonstrating sustainability of the stock.

**Commercial Regulations by State:**

Maryland: moratorium since 1980. Bycatch provision allows a two fish per day of dead American shad for personal use.

PRFC: moratorium on directed harvest since March 1, 1982. Pound net by-catch provision allows up to two percent by volume of the total catch in possession to be American shad.

Virginia: moratorium since January 1, 1994. American shad bycatch permit for the gillnet fishery allows up to 10 fish per vessel from permitted areas as long as a greater number of spot, croaker, bluefish, catfish, striped bass, or white perch are landed.

DE: Nanticoke River, Broad Creek and the ocean are closed to American shad harvest.

Delaware River & Bay commercial (NY, NJ, DE, PA): American shad are caught mainly as bycatch in the striped bass gill net fishery. There are no specific regulations to reduce or restrict commercial landings of American Shad. Regulations governing the Striped Bass fishery include a limited entry license system, the amount and type of gear allowed to be fished, and gill net season and area restrictions. These restrictions included no fixed gill nets in the Delaware River north of Liston Point from January 1 through May 31, and not more than 200' of fixed, anchored, or staked gill net from May 10 through September in the rest of the Delaware Estuary. There is no harvest permitted in the Delaware portion of the Nanticoke or in the Atlantic Ocean. Neither the State of New York nor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania permits commercial harvest of American Shad in their jurisdictional waters of the Delaware River Basin.

New York: New York fisheries for American shad in the Hudson River and ocean waters are closed; moratorium began in 2010.

New Jersey: There is no directed commercial fishery for American shad allowed in coastal waters except for Delaware Bay. The commercial directed fishery in coastal waters was closed January 1, 2013. The shad permit allows the holder to fish in any state waters where the commercial harvest of shad is allowed as long as the permit holder meets all other net requirements for commercial fishing in a particular area. Permits are not gear specific. All permits are currently non-transferable except to immediate family members.

North Carolina: Limited season by region

- Albemarle, Croatan, Roanoke, and Currituck sounds and tribs - It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M. Thursday, March 3, 2016 and after midnight, Thursday, March 24, 2016.
- Bay and Neuse Rivers and tribs - It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M. Monday, February 15, 2016 and after midnight, Thursday, April 14, 2016.
- Pamlico Sound, Pamlico and Pungo Rivers and tribs - It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M., Monday, February 15, 2016 and after midnight, Thursday, April 14, 2016.
- Cape Fear River and tribs - It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M. Saturday, February 20, 2016 and after midnight Monday, April 11, 2016.
- All other internal coastal and joint fishing waters - It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M., Monday, February 15, 2016 and after midnight, Thursday, April 14, 2016.