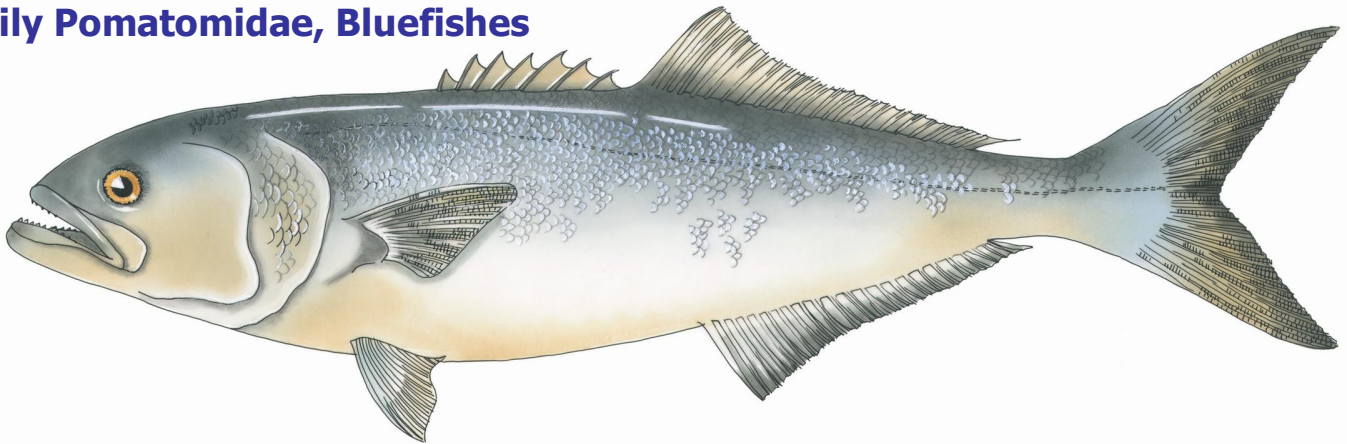


Bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix)

Family Pomatomidae, Bluefishes



Common names: blue, chopper, snapper

Description: Bluefish are a blue green shade above with silver sides and underbelly. A single dark blotch can be found at the base of each of their pectoral fins. They have large powerful jaws that are lined with a single row of small, razor-sharp teeth. Their bodies are stout and powerful. These fish have two dorsal fins, the first being much lower and rounder than the second which, in turn, is similar in size to the anal fin. Bluefish have a large forked tall fin that pushes them swiftly through water.

Where found: inshore and offshore

Similar Gulf of Maine species: none

Remarks: Swimming together in large schools, bluefish migrate north with warming water temperatures and generally, but not always, appear along Maine's coast during the summer months. They frequently follow other schools of fish, such as menhaden, mackerel and butterfish, upon which they feed. The preferred rig for blue fishing is a medium duty rod and reel equipped with at least twenty pound test line, coupled with a coated steel or heavy monofilament leader. Effective artificial lures include spoons, plugs and tube lures. Baits, either alive or cut, include mackerel, menhaden, butterfish and eels. An assortment of flies are also known to work well. Anglers should take extra care when handling bluefish because their bite can cause serious injury.

Records: MSSAR:

handline: vacant
rod and reel: Dennis Moran, 08/08/94, 19.68 lbs., Boothbay Harbor
fly rod: vacant
junior male: vacant
junior female: vacant
IGFA All-Tackle World Record: 31 lbs, 12 oz.

Fish Illustrations by: Roz Davis Designs, Damariscotta, ME (207) 563-2286

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