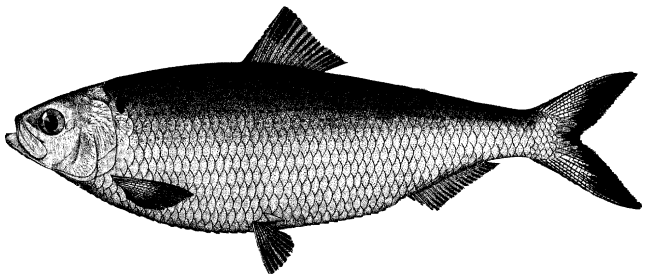
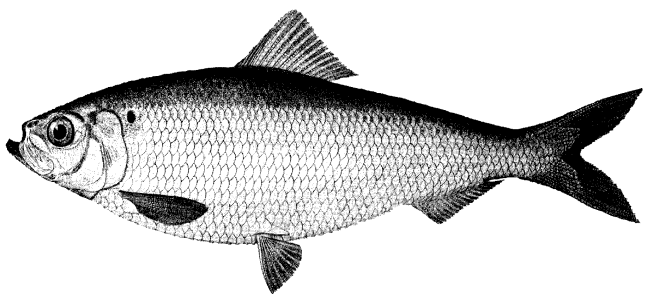


BLUEBACK HERRING *Alosa aestivalis*

Key characteristics:

- peritoneum (belly lining) is black or sooty colored
- back is blue-green in color
- eye width = distance between the front of the eye to the tip of the snout
- body shape is slightly more slender than the alewife

VS.



ALEWIFE *Alosa pseudoharengus*

Key characteristics:

- peritoneum (belly lining) is pale gray or pink
- back is gray-green in color
- eye width > distance between the front of the eye to the tip of the snout
- body shape is slightly deeper than the blueback

Figure 43. Blueback herring (top) and alewife (bottom). Source: *Fishes of Chesapeake Bay* by E. O. Murdy et al., published by Smithsonian Institution Press.