

## KEY TO SALTWATER and ANADROMOUS FISHES (WITH COMMON NAMES)

(Based on Marine Animals of southern New England and New York, by Howard M. Weiss, 1995) (the page and figure designation following each scientific name refers to where the fish is diagramed in the resource above)

- 1a. Flat like a pancake Go to #2  
1b. Not flat like a pancake Go to #7
- 2a. Right-eyed flatfish (point head away with gill openings down; check which side eyes are on) Go to #3  
2b. Left-eyed flatfish (point head away with gill openings down; check which side eyes are on) Go to #4
- 3a. Has pectoral fins; a space between ventral & anal fins; fan-like caudal fin *Pleuronectes americanus*  
(p 13. 10, Fig A) winter flounder  
3b. No pectoral fins, pelvic fin united with the anal fin, upper jaw projects beyond lower one *Trinectes maculatus*  
(p 13. 10, Fig C) hogchoker
- 4a. Has large scales; small mouth *Etropus microstomus*  
(p 13.11, Fig F) smallmouth flounder  
4b. Has small scales; large mouth Go to #5
- 5a. Has numerous dark & light spots; tiny teeth; wide ventral fin; transparent *Scophthalmus aquosus*  
(p 13.11, Fig E) windowpane flounder  
5b. May have a few dark spots; large mouth and teeth, narrow ventral fin Go to #6
- 6a. Has four conspicuous black eye spots edged with pink *Paralichthys oblongus*  
(p 13.11, Fig G) fourspot flounder  
6b. No four conspicuous black eye spots but numerous smaller dark spots *Paralichthys dentatus*  
(p 13.11, Fig H) summer flounder or fluke
- 7a. Has one dorsal fin Go to #8  
7b. Has two dorsal fins (includes an adipose fin) Go to #14
- 8a. Dorsal fin all soft rayed; forked caudal fin, saw-toothed scale edge on the belly Go to #9  
8b. Dorsal fin part spiny and part soft rayed; caudal fin may be curved deeply inward, straight, or rounded Go to #11
- 9a. One longitudinal row of dusky spots (1-8 spots) extending back from shoulder *Alosa sapidissima*  
(p 13. 15, Fig F) American shad  
9b. Single black spot on shoulder Go to #10
- 10a Back is gray-green; snout to eye distance < eye diameter *Alosa pseudoharengus*  
(p 13.15, Fig G) alewife  
10b Back is blue, more slender than an Alewife, snout to eye distance = eye diameter *Alosa aestivalis*  
(p 13. 15, Fig H) blueback herring  
10c Last fin ray on dorsal fin greatly elongated stretching along the back; deep body *Dorosoma cepedianum*  
(p 13.14, Fig B) gizzard shad
- 11a. Caudal fin curves deeply inward (forked tail); pectoral fins are pointed; deep body *Stenotomus chrysops*  
(p 13.18, Fig A) scup or porgy  
11b. Caudal fin straight or rounded, pectoral fins are rounded Go to #12
- 12a. Dorsal fin - 2 spiny & 2 soft rayed; anal fin longer than length of fin attachment, dorsal fin contains 10 spiny rays and 11 soft rays *Centropristis striata*.  
(p 13.18, Fig D) black sea bass

- 12b. Dorsal fin w/ spiny portion > soft rayed portion; anal fin shorter than length of fin attachment; Go to #13 distinguished by heavy pharyngeal or throat teeth
- 13a. Slender, with a long low dorsal fin; pointed snout; flattened forehead; protruding canine teeth ***Tautoglabrus adspereus***  
(p 13.19, FigE) cunner
- 13b. Round body; thick lips & blunt snout; arched forehead; large canine teeth ***Tautoga onitis***  
(p 13.19, Fig F) tautog or blackfish
- 14a. Single dorsal fin with small adipose fin; anadromous ***Salmo salar***  
(p 13.22, Fig B) Atlantic salmon
- 14b. Spiny and soft dorsal fins closely spaced Go to #15
- 15a. Projecting lowerjaw with large sharp canine teeth; anal fin is long with > 15 fin rays; greenish / bluish back; forked tail ***Pomatomus saltatrix***  
(p 13.25, Fig C) bluefish
- 15b. Anal fin is short with <= 15 fin rays Go to #16
- 16a. Second dorsal fin longer than first dorsal fin and anal fin; back peppered with small spots ***Cynoscion regalis***  
(p 13.26, Fig C) weakfish
- 16b. Second dorsal fin about same size as anal fin; anadromous Go to #17
- 17a. Horizontal stripes; small space between dorsal fins ***Morone saxatilis***  
(p 13.26, Fig A) striped bass
- 17b.No distinct stripes; no space between dorsal fins (connected); silvery in appearance ***Morone americana***  
(p 13.26, Fig B) white perch