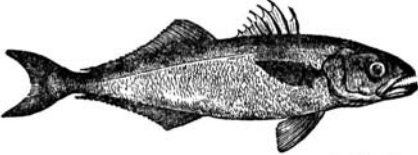


<p>Description</p>	<p>Bluefish are a popular marine fish found along the Atlantic Coast. Juveniles are often referred to as “snapper” blues and have their own fishing season. They range from Cape Cod to South America, usually migrating according to water temperature. They follow a similar pattern year to year, which allows fisherman to predict when they will be in a particular area. Traveling in schools, they appear around the coast of New York and New Jersey in late April, early May and remain through September. In the fall they return to warmer waters.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Bluefish Profile</p> 
<p>Habitat</p>	<p>Blue fish are found in most types of water from deep to shallow, and are especially fond of rip tides. Generally, the fish follow their prey. Spotting bluefish: Bluefish schools are easy to spot when surfaced because of the water displacement or presence of scavenger birds such as gulls. However, when underwater their presence is often signaled by an oily slick. Also, they often congregate and wait for prey a few yards away from crossing currents. Snapper blues are also found in estuaries and river mouths.</p>		
<p>Food</p>	<p>Almost any smaller fish and squids. This includes but is not necessarily limited to menhaden, herring, eels, mackerel and butterfish. Their appetite and feeding habits are legendary.</p>		
<p>Bait/Lures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eel • Herring • Mackerel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menhaden • Squid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feather • Bucktails • Metal squids • Plugs • Spoons (tip with pork rind)
<p>Tackle</p>	<p>Generally heavier tackle should be used with adult bluefish (lighter for snapper blues), with the general rule of never allowing the line to go slack when reeling in. Also, a wire leader is recommended because of the bluefish’s sharp teeth.</p>		<p>At a glance Rod: Medium to heavy spin Line: 60 lb. mono test, #3 wire Hook: 4/0</p>
<p>Location/Time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near bottom in deep water • Tide rips, near edge of rip 	<p>Shore – early morning and dusk Shallows – setting sun Deepwater – midday and dead of night</p>	
<p>Technique</p>	<p>Once a school is located, blue fish can often be taken easily because of their voracious feeding habits. However, they can be selective so carrying several baits is recommended. The best way to strike at the school is cast or troll slight ahead of it. Chasing surfaced schools is generally not recommended as the fish become quickly spooked. Similarly, it’s best to keep the boat away from the strike location such as a tide rip and cast to the location from a good distance. For trolling, maintain a lure speed of 5-8 knots. Chumming with the oily ground menhaden can be extremely effective. Drift fishing is also effective. When using a lure, blue fish prefer a moving lure. Lures must often pass the fish three times before it will strike. Always retrieve the line quickly.</p>		
<p>Tips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often the motion of the lure is more important than the choice of the lure itself • Concentrate on gaining the interest of the lead fish in the school • Bluefish are easily spooked, be careful how and you cast, as well as moving the boat • Often it takes multiple passes to get a bluefish to bite 		
<p>Attributes</p>	<p>The bluefish has stout and flat sided body. It is blue green (body) to silvery white (belly) in color and is characterized by a spiked front dorsal fin and a second dorsal fin twice as long as the first. One of their best known features is their extremely sharp teeth and they have been known to injure fishermen. Bluefish also have good sight outside the water.</p>		
<p>Spawning</p>	<p>Bluefish spawn during the spring, and during that time they are found on the ocean floor. Breeding occurs in water temperatures between 64° and 72°. Generally they breed anywhere between North Carolina and New England, depending on water temperature. They feed little during this time but can be caught on bottom baits such as crab. Bluefish feed extensively after spawning. Males and females reach sexual maturity by the age of 2 years.</p>		
<p>Cooking</p>	<p>Bluefish generally produce thick fillets that are good marinated in almost any acidic liquid such as lemon juice, lime juice or vinegar. It is often baked with vegetables such as onions, peppers and tomatoes. Often the goal is to lighten the flavor of the fish itself which is often strong.</p>		