

Allis Shad

Alosa alosa

Fish · A rare visitor to Solway rivers in spring



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Similar to the twaite shad but larger and deeper-bodied, with finer and more numerous gill rakers and typically a single dark spot behind the gill cover rather than a row. Allis shad are considerably rarer than twaite in British waters and there are few confirmed spawning rivers; records from the Solway are occasional rather than routine, which makes any sighting notable.

BEHAVIOUR

Like the twaite it is a plankton feeder at sea, sieving with very fine gill rakers, and enters fresh water in spring to spawn in gravel in the middle and lower reaches. Most allis shad die after spawning. The species has been lost from many European rivers through barriers, pollution and overfishing, and its remaining populations are closely protected.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Herrings and shads (Clupeidae)
SIZE	Typically 40-60 cm · larger than twaite shad
UK STATUS	Protected; very rare in British rivers

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