

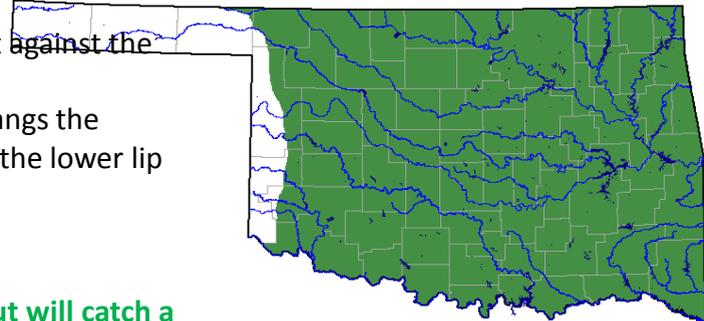
The Shads



Shad - Gizzard and Threadfin



- Shad are easily identified by their silvery bodies and black spot behind the gill.
- Both gizzard and threadfin have a thread-like filament attached to the back of the dorsal, but it often lays flat against the back, thus not always visible.
- Gizzard shad have a more rounded nose, which overhangs the bottom lip. Threadfin have a more pointed snout, and the lower lip sticks out further than the top lip.
- Threadfins have larger scales.



Biologist tip: A finger drug downward across the snout will catch a threadfins' lower lip and cause the mouth to open. The iris of the eye is silver on freshly caught threadfin, but turns gold quickly after death. A gizzard shad's iris is always gold.

Skipjack Herring



- Skipjacks are fairly large (up to about 18 inches) members of the herring family with large mouths.
- They can be distinguished from mooneye and goldeneye by their longer and more slender body shapes, a protruding lower jaw and sharp saw tooth like scales along the keel of the belly. No other Oklahoma fish has a top jaw shaped like skipjacks.



- Skipjacks have a clear, protective eyelid that covers the front and backs of their eyes. Skipjacks are found in the eastern portions of the Red and Arkansas river systems and are most common below dams where they are sometimes caught on artificial lures such as jigs and small spinners.

Fish Fact: Skipjack's resemble small tarpon and readily jump when hooked.

