

American Shad Weight Trends

Introduction: Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E) has been hosting the “Shad Derby” since purchasing Hadley Station facilities from Holyoke Water Power. On two weekends in May, fishermen try their skill at catching the heaviest American Shad. Prizes are awarded to winners in both senior and junior divisions and the results from 2003 to 2019 are posted on HG&E’s website, www.hged.com/shadderby.

Preparation:

Graph paper and pencil

Procedure:

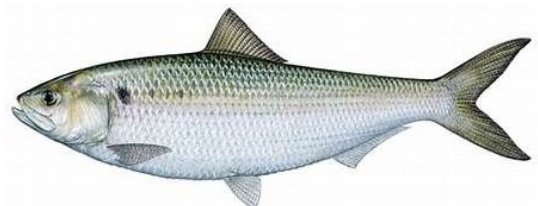
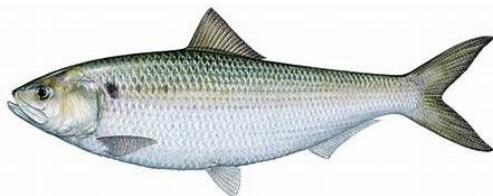
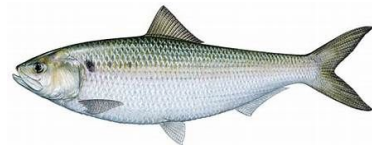
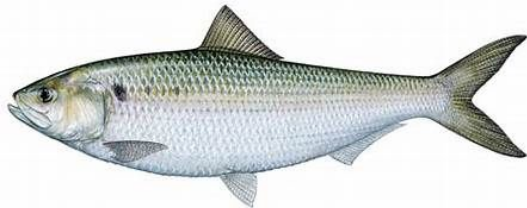
A data table on the next page shows the weight of the largest American Shad caught during HG&E’s Shad Derby over the last 17 years in the Junior Division.

A. Use the data to draw a graph of the American Shad weight over time.

B. By examining your graph, answer the following:

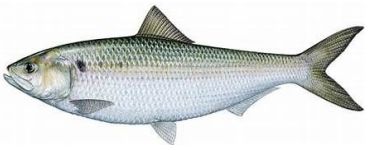
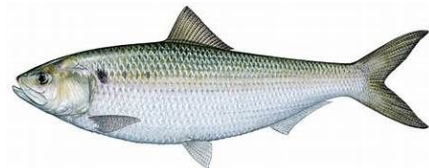
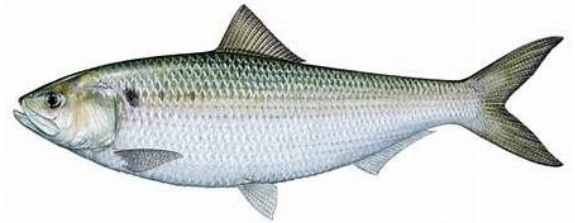
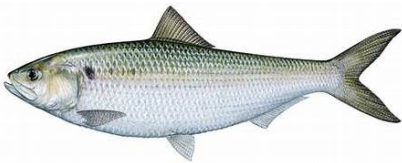
1- Do you see a trend in the weight of the American Shad coming to the Connecticut River over the years represented? _____

2- In one sentence, summarize that trend. _____



Weight of the largest American Shad caught during
Holyoke Gas and Electric's Shad Derby
during the last 16 years in the Junior Division.

Date	Weight (lbs.)
2003	5.9
2004	6.4
2005	6.1
2006	5.8
2007	5.2
2008	5.0
2009	4.6
2010	4.3
2011	4.6
2012	4.6
2013	5.25
2014	4.8
2015	4.3
2016	4.2
2017	5.1
2018	4.5
2019	4.1



Supplement for 6th grade+

For more data from past Shad Derbys, visit [Shad Derby](#)

Hint: To convert ounces into pounds, divide the amount of ounces by 16 to get the fractional amount in pounds. (There are 16 ounces in one pound.)

For example: 5 pounds 6 ounces

$$6 \text{ ounces} / 16 = .375$$

5.375 pounds; rounded to 5.4 pounds