



American smelt *Osmerus mordax* *OSMERIDAE*

Size: up to 30 cm

Peculiarities: A short flap-like adipose fin (1). Mouth gapes behind the eye (2).

Habitat: Smelts live in coastal waters, ascending streams for spawning in May.

Food: Zooplankton and middle range crustaceans.

Enemies: Cod, striped bass, salmon, seal, cormorant, and merganser.

Relation to man: The smelt fishery is commercially important especially in the Gulf.