

**Name:****Twaite shad***Allosa fallax***UK status:**[UK BAP Priority](#). Nationally scarce. Rapid decline**London status:**

Unknown. Possibly rare seasonal visitor to River Thames

**Protected status:**

- W&CA, Schedule 5 (partial protection)
  - Habitats Regulations, Schedule 3
  - Habitats Directive, Annex II, V (European protected species of animals)
  - Bern Convention, Appendix III
- 'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

**Relevant London HAPs:**

Tidal Thames

**Citation:**

The twaite shad has shown a rapid decline throughout its very restricted global range (coastal western Europe). In the UK it has disappeared from several of its former spawning strongholds and is currently known to breed only in the upper reaches of a few major rivers in the Severn catchment of South Wales. They may also breed in the Solway basin. Mature fish are much wider ranging however, and have recently been caught off Mucking in Essex. Twaite shad were formerly abundant in the River



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Thames before pollution rose to levels

that virtually wiped out the entire fish community between 1920 and 1960. Although many species have returned with improving water quality in the river, recovery of the particularly sensitive shad is likely to be slow. In Greater London, occasional seasonal presence is suspected but has yet to be proven. Managing agencies; Environment Agency, Port of London Authority

**Conservation priorities:**

- Maintain routine surveillance for the recovery of twaite shad in River Thames

**References:**

Carstairs, M (2000). *The ecology and conservation of Allis and Twaite Shad*, in British Wildlife, Vol. 11 (pages 159-166)