

A Range Extension of the Atlantic Silverside, *Menidia menidia*, to Coastal Waters of Southwestern Newfoundland

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Previous literature documents Atlantic Silverside, *Menidia menidia*, as occurring from the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence to northeastern Florida. Beach seining in St. George's Bay, Newfoundland, revealed the presence of this species in coastal waters of southwestern Newfoundland. This is the first documented report of *M. menidia* in Newfoundland waters. This report extends the range of this species north of the Laurentian Channel, a significant biogeographic barrier to small coastal fishes. All *M. menidia* collected were young-of-the-year, less than 90 mm SL (Standard Length). These fish may be representative of a larger relict population originating from the Mid-Hypsithermal Interval (7000 years ago) that spawn in St. George's Bay and migrate offshore for winter. Alternatively, these *M. menidia* may be survivors of a more southern spawning population carried northward by ocean currents.

Key Words: Atlantic Silverside, *Menidia menidia*, species distribution, range extension, Newfoundland.