

Lake Sturgeon Committee FY2005 Action Plan

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service offices throughout the Great Lakes are working together with other partners to conserve, protect and enhance lake sturgeon populations in the Great Lakes. Below is a list of activities that the Lake Sturgeon Committee will be involved with during FY2005.

Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Coordination Meeting

The lake sturgeon committee is receiving funding from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to hold three Great Lakes basin wide lake sturgeon coordination meetings. The purpose for these meetings is to provide a forum to foster communication and exchange of information relating to the study, management, and restoration of lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes basin. The second meeting was held in November of 2004 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Proceedings from the second meeting will be available in February 2005.

Continue Partnership with Commercial Fishers



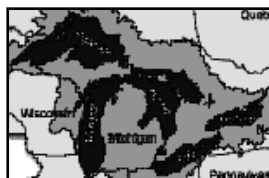
The Lake Sturgeon Committee will continue working with commercial fishers across the Great Lakes basin to collect information on lake sturgeon as funding allows. Biologists from the Great Lakes FROs (Ashland, Alpena, Green Bay and Lower Great Lakes) have provided the commercial fishers with training and equipment to gather data from lake sturgeon that they encounter. These data will assist the Service in determining the number, distribution, movement patterns, growth and reproduction of lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes. If funding for this project improves, information gathered during this project may be compiled into a report and distributed at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Committee Meetings.

Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Web Site



This site (first posted in April 1999) was established to provide focus for lake sturgeon restoration and management activities throughout the Great Lakes Basin. This page contains a tremendous amount of information from the multitude of agencies working on lake sturgeon management, research, conservation and restoration in the Great Lakes Basin, as well as links to other lake sturgeon associated web sites. Information from 8 different agencies and organizations representing 28 different offices is currently displayed on the page. Posting and maintenance of the page has been made possible by funding support of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team.

Lake Sturgeon Tributary Inventory Database and GIS



The Lake Sturgeon Committee will continue development and maintenance of the web-based lake sturgeon database and GIS map which is located on the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Web Site for easy access and input of new information. This project has created a unified, interactive web-based GIS map and meta-database of Great Lakes lake sturgeon information important to researchers and managers. The objective of the project is to compile available lake sturgeon data sources to help focus and coordinate restoration and research activities on priority lake sturgeon waters. A recent grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust was instrumental in moving this project forward to completion this year.

Lake Sturgeon Tagging Database

The Alpena FRO was successful in obtaining funding through the GLFT for a web accessible database where researchers can go and look up contact information on a recaptured lake sturgeon. This database will contain all tag types used, tag #, and contact information for the original tagger. The intent of the database is to facilitate communication between people who tag and those that encounter tagged lake sturgeon throughout the Great Lakes. The database will be posted on either the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Web Site or the Great Lakes Fisheries Commissions web site with links provided through several other sites.

Great Lakes Basin Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Plan

The Committee identified the need for this plan in 1997 and began initial work in 2000. However, making further progress will require considerable time and given current resources, committee members are not likely to have the time to devote the needed effort without significant additional input from new members or redirection of Regional priorities that provides time for this work by existing members (not anticipated in 2004); however, when/if completed, this plan will better define the Service's role in lake sturgeon restoration across the Great Lakes basin.