



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Service and States Cooperate to Protect Pallid Sturgeon

### Quick Facts: Pallid Sturgeon

- Scientific name: *Scaphirhynchus albus*
- Listed as endangered under the ESA on September 6, 1990
- Known to occur in: Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee
- Can weigh up to 80 pounds and reach lengths of up to 6 feet
- Preferred habitat has a diversity of depths and velocities formed by braided channels, sand bars, sand flats and gravel bars
- Can reach 60 years of age

The pallid sturgeon is an ancient species that has existed since the days of the dinosaurs.

The Fish and Wildlife Service listed the pallid sturgeon as endangered in 1990 and established a Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Plan in cooperation with state and private entities.

Eight federal and state hatcheries raise pallid sturgeon for stocking into the Missouri River to help recover this endangered fish. To date, more than 125,000 hatchery-raised pallid sturgeon have been stocked in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

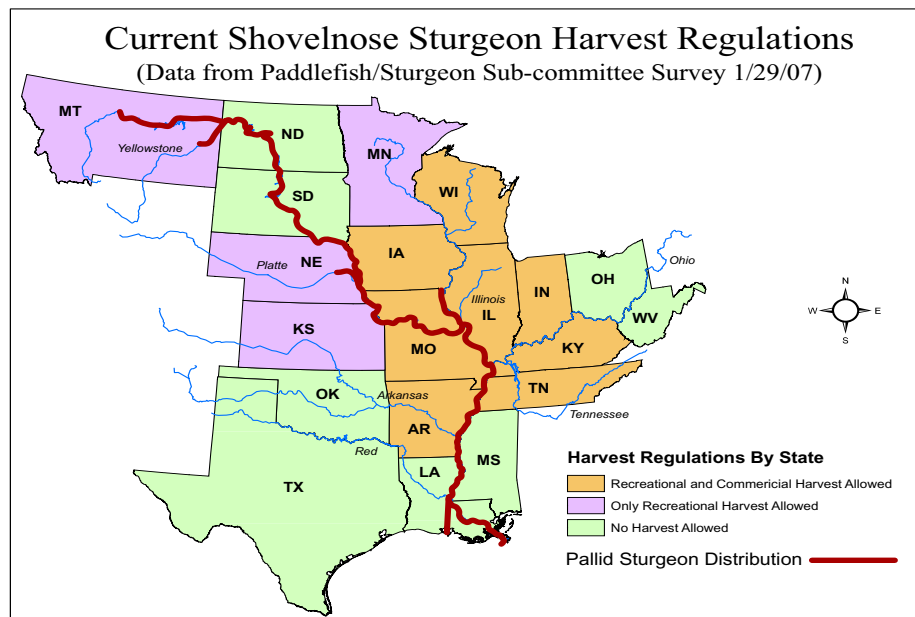
State and Fish and Wildlife Service Fishery Resources Offices monitor pallid sturgeon populations and collect pallid broodstock from the Missouri River.



In a unique, multi-day effort in spring 2007, more than 70 state and federal conservation officers patrolled hundreds of miles of river, enforcing laws designed to protect aquatic species, with particular focus on the commercial fishery for shovelnose sturgeon, a cousin of the endangered pallid sturgeon.

Of particular note, the task force was looking for whether pallid sturgeon are being taken in commercial fishing nets.

The states and the Fish and Wildlife Service need to work together for protection of pallid sturgeon, particularly in regard to the shovelnose fishery.



Map developed using information from a Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Association (MICRA) sponsored study.