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PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING INCIDENTAL CATCH OF PALLID STURGEON

I. Introduction

Due to their endangered status, extra care is required in handling pallid sturgeon. There is a possibility that incidental catches of pallid sturgeon may be made in during the sampling. If this occurs, the following procedures will be used to document the catch.

Each member of the MO River Benthic Fish Study Consortium is responsible for obtaining collection permits and any other applicable endangered species permits.

II. Methods for handling

Pallid sturgeon are relatively docile. Cradle large fish with your arms and hands. Try to avoid grasping large sturgeon by the caudle peduncle, snout, mouth, or gills. While collecting data, they should be kept moist and should not be held out of the water for more than 2 minutes without irrigating the gills.

III. Data Collection

Collect all data possible and record on the Sturgeon Data Sheet (Attachment 1). Complete as much of the data sheet as possible. If tags are not present or are unidentifiable, comment on any distinguishing features or marks on the fish.

IV. Collection of Deceased Pallid Sturgeon

Deceased adult pallid sturgeon(s) should be left fully intact, double bagged, labeled and frozen immediately to prevent decomposition. Legal chain-of-custody documentation (SOP# 7.2) should be maintained for each specimen to facilitate contaminant analysis reporting. Deaths should be reported immediately to Mark Dryer by phone and in writing [(701) 250-4419, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1500 Capitol Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501] describing all the circumstances relating to the death of the fish.

All capture documentation, data sheets and sturgeon should be mailed to Mark Dryer (as per Mark's instructions) as soon after the capture date as possible. Make copies of Sturgeon Data Sheet and Chain of Custody papers. Mail the originals along with the

sturgeon. Retain copies of data sheet and chain of custody papers.

V. References:

Dryer, Mark. 2/96. Protocol on Collecting, Tagging, Holding, Transporting, and Data Recording for Researchers and Managers Handling Pallid Sturgeon. USFWS, 1500 Capitol Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501. (701) 250-4419.

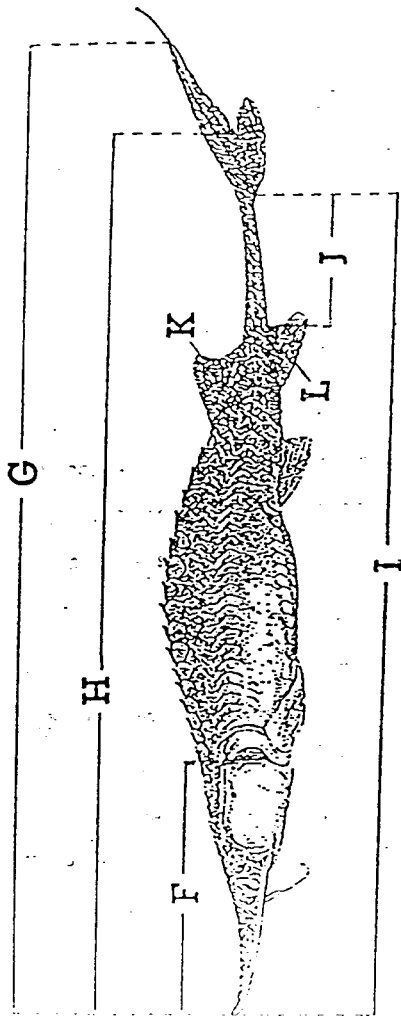
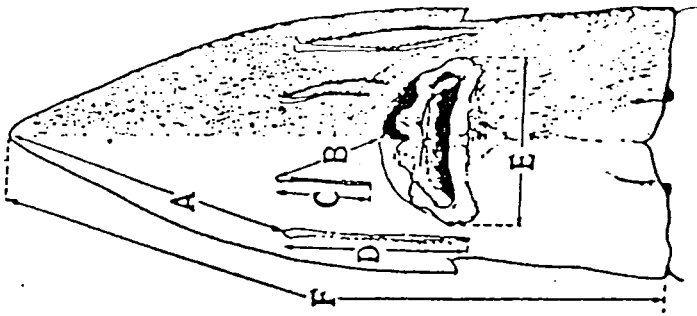
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Attachments



- A. Interrostrum: tip of rostrum to base of outer barbel
- B. Mouth/Barbel: base of inner barbel to midline of opening for mouth
- C. Inner barbel length: base of longest barbel to tip
- D. Outer barbel length: base of longest barbel to tip
- E. Mouth gape: greatest outside distance across mouth opening (not a necessary measurement)
- F. Head length: tip of rostrum to back of opercular plate
- G. Total length: (not a necessary measurement)
- H. Fork length: tip of rostrum to fork in caudal fin.
- I. Standard length: (not a necessary measurement)
- J. Peduncle length: (not a necessary measurement)
- K. Dorsal fin
- L. Anal fin

Sturgeon Data Sheet - February 1996

Capture Location _____
 Latitude _____ Longitude _____
 River Mile _____ State _____ River _____
 Method: Gill / Trammel / Hoop Net / Trotline / Fishing / Other _____
 Duration of Set/Drift: _____ hrs/min Mesh Size _____

Habitat Data:

Water Depth: _____ m/ft Turbidity: _____ Secchi/NTU
 Water Velocity: _____ mps/fps Substrate: _____
 Water Temperature: _____ °F/°C Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Schematics of Sturgeon Capture Location

(Sketch river channel, main current, sandbars, capture location, & indicate north in the box above)

Physical Data:

Interrostral Length _____ mm/in
 Mouth - Barbel _____ mm/in
 Outside Barbel _____ mm/in
 Inside Barbel _____ mm/in
 Head Length _____ mm/in
 Fork Length _____ mm/in

Weight _____ lbs/kg

Sex: M / F / U: Ripe / Green / U

Tag Information: _____

PIT Tag # _____

Other tag information _____

Recapture: Yes / No

Comments: _____

Captured by: _____