



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southeast Region**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Photo by FWS

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**MEDIA ADVISORY
U.S. Fish and Wildlife hosts media tour
Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill injury assessment for threatened Gulf sturgeon**

April 3, 2012. The Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Natural Resource Trustees continue to assess injuries to natural resources and the services they provide caused by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Within the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is leading the effort to assess injuries on many wildlife species, including the threatened Gulf sturgeon.

Between February and May of each year, Gulf sturgeons migrate from the Gulf of Mexico and coastal estuaries into freshwater rivers located along the Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana coasts. Scientists involved in the DWH Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) are currently capturing sturgeons on those rivers and collecting data to be used in assessing the type, magnitude and extent of injury to this rare fish caused by the April 2010 spill.

- WHAT:** Media will have the opportunity to accompany researchers on boats where Gulf sturgeon will be caught and released for the purpose of collecting blood, tissue, and other important assessment data.
- TOPIC:** Continuing injury assessment investigation to determine the effect of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the Gulf sturgeon.
- WHEN:** Thursday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. CDT
- WHERE:** Blackwater River, FL (Milton, FL – see directions below)
- WHO:** Glenn Constant, Principle Investigator, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Adam Kaeser, Fish Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- RSVP TO:** Nanciann Regalado (678) 296-6805 or Denise Rowell (251) 441-6630 prior to noon, Wednesday, April 4, 2012.

The Gulf Sturgeon assessment work is one component of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Trustees strategy for assessing injuries caused by the DWH Oil Spill. These studies and others will also help identify restoration required to return injured resources to their pre-spill condition. The Trustees include representatives from the Department of the Interior, NOAA, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas.

The Department of the Interior, NOAA Fisheries, and agencies within the Gulf states, are working together to conserve the threatened Gulf sturgeon. Together our scientists study and monitor the species for the purpose of stabilizing the population and eventual removal of the species from the federal Threatened Species list. You can get more information at <http://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon/index.cfm> or <http://www.fws.gov/panamacity>

Directions to the boat ramp on the Blackwater River, Milton, FL

From Pensacola (about 35 minutes):

I-10 E toward Tallahassee

Take the SR-281 N exit, EXIT 22, toward US-90 N / Milton (0.3 mi)

Turn left onto Avalon Blvd / SR-281 N (5.0 mi)

Turn right onto US-90 E / SR-10 E (3.0 mi)

Turn left onto Old River Rd (0.2 mi)

Follow Old River Road to the boat ramp on your left

From Panama City (about 2.25 hrs)

US-98 West towards Pensacola (about 35 mi)

Turn right onto US-331 N / SR-83 N (24.0 mi)

Merge onto I-10 W via the ramp on the left toward Pensacola (53.0 mi)

Merge via EXIT 31 toward Milton (1.6 mi)

Turn left onto US-90 W / SR-87 N / SR-10 W (3.9 mi)

Turn right onto Old River Rd (0.2 mi)

Follow Old River Road to the boat ramp on your left

From Tallahassee (about 2.75 hr):

I-10 W toward Pensacola (about 170 mi)

Merge via EXIT 31 toward Milton (1.6 mi)

Turn left onto US-90 W / SR-87 N / SR-10 W (3.9 mi)

Turn right onto Old River Rd (0.2 mi)

Follow Old River Road to the boat ramp on your left

