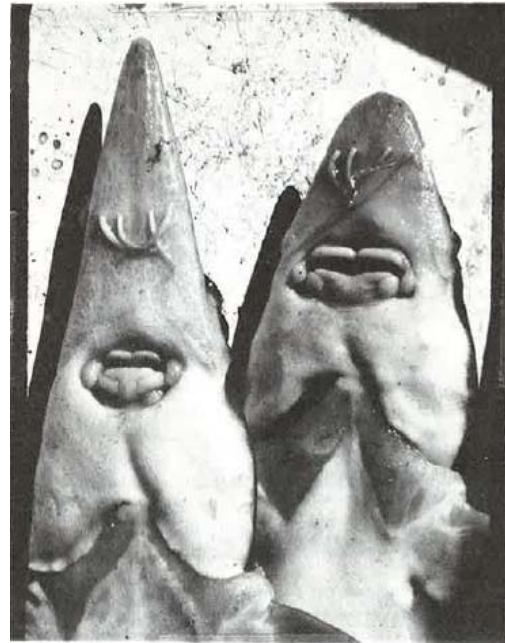
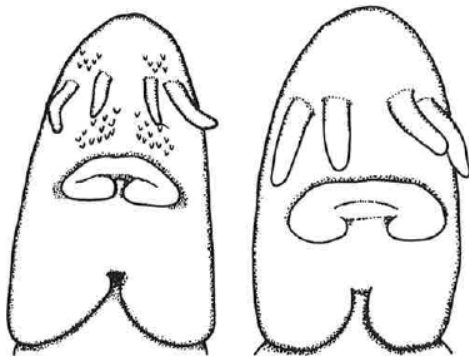
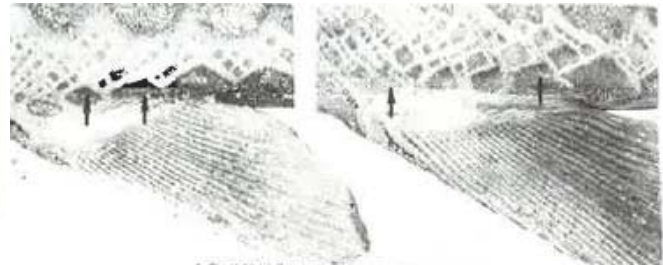
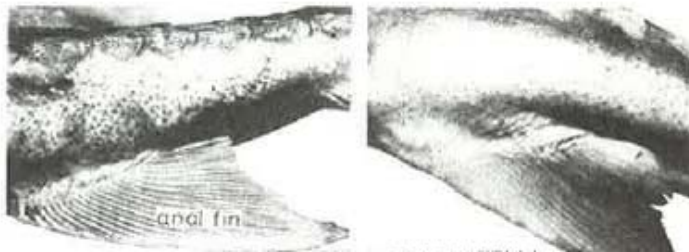


Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) and shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)



Ventral view of the heads of 17.0 mm larval *Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus* (left) and *A. brevirostrum* (right) from the Hudson River, N.Y., illustrating the difference in mouth size and structure (after W.L. Dovel, 1979. The biology and management of shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon of the Hudson River. N.Y. Dep. Environ. Conserv. Rep. AFS9-R, 54 p.)

Ventral view of Atlantic sturgeon (left) and shortnose sturgeon (right); note short snout and wide mouth of the shortnose sturgeon (from Dadswell et al. 1984).



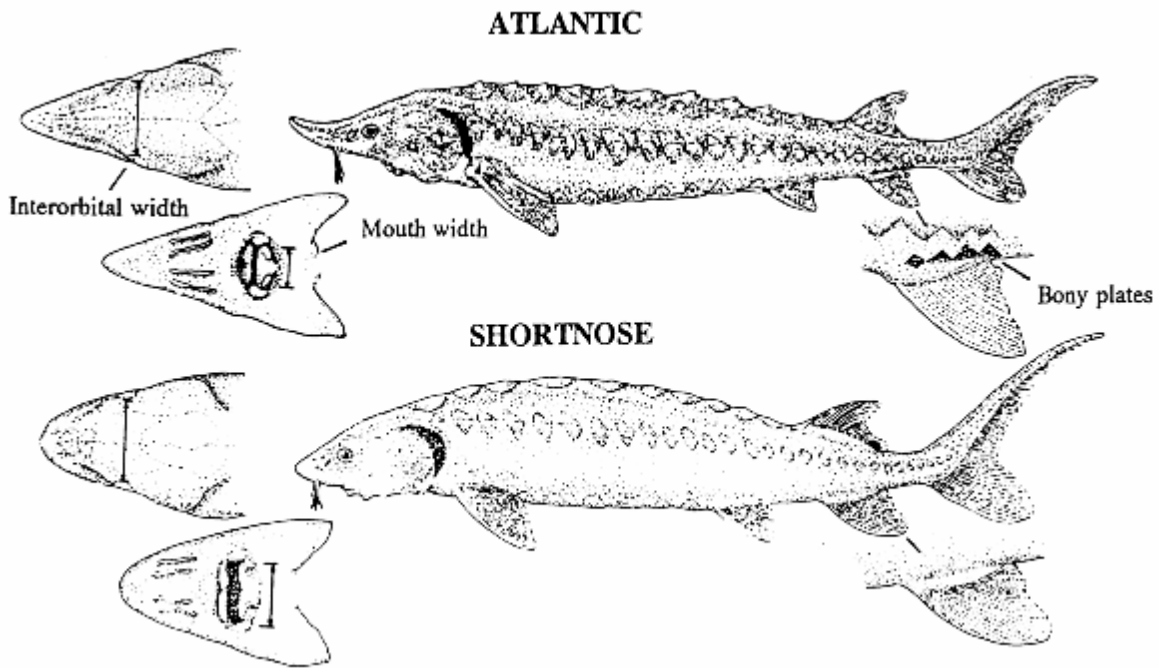
Lateral view of shortnose sturgeon (left) and Atlantic sturgeon (right); note the small bony plates (scutes) highlighted by the black arrows above the anal fin for the Atlantic sturgeon (in Dadswell et al. 1984 from Gorham and McAllister 1974).

Key to Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon (modified from Dadswell et al. 1984 after Vladykov and Greeley 1963; Scott and Crossman 1973)

- 1a. Mouth width inside lips usually <55% (range 43-66%) of interorbital width; interorbital width <29% (range 22-36%) of head length; average TL:FL= 1.14; gill rakers 17-27 (X=21.6); postdorsal and preanal shields usually in pairs, usually 2-6 plates between anal base and lateral row of scutes; dorsal plates generally touch or overlap; viscera pale; has fontanelle
 *Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*
- 1b. Mouth width exceeds 62% (range 63-81%) of interorbital width; interorbital width usually exceeds 29% (range 29-40%) of head length; average TL:FL =1.12, gill rakers 22 – 40, postdorsal and preanal shields usually in a single row, usually no plates between anal base and lateral scute row; viscera blackish; no fontanelle
 *Acipenser brevirostrum*



Atlantic sturgeon (photo credit: University of Maine)



shortnose sturgeon (photo credit: University of Maine)

Shortnose sturgeon are a federally endangered species. Please report any incidental captures or sightings to NOAA Fisheries Service immediately at (978) 281-9300 x6514.

?Questions? Contact NOAA Fisheries Service at (978) 281-9300 x6535 or x6514