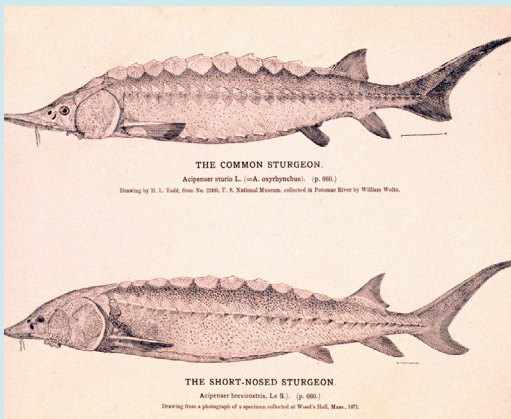


NOAA FISHERIES

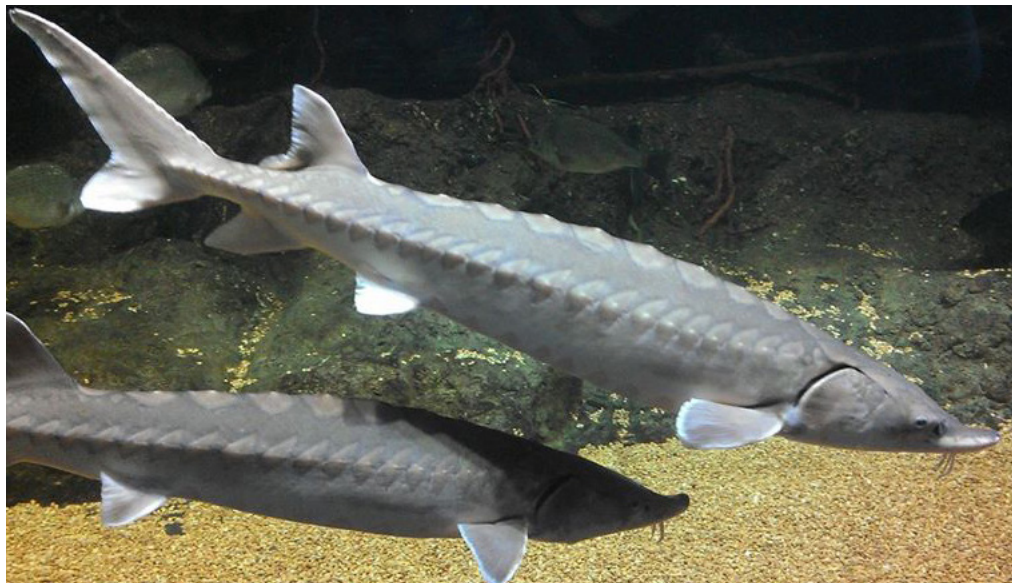
Protected Resources Division

If you would like to report a stranded, injured or dead sturgeon, please contact NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Division at 978-281-9328.



Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon

Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) and shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) are anadromous species found in rivers, estuaries and coastal waters along the Atlantic coast of North America. Migrating up and down the coast, sturgeon return to their natal (birthplace) rivers to spawn. They are slow growing and late maturing. Atlantic sturgeon have been recorded to reach up to 16 feet in length and shortnose sturgeon up to 5 feet, with both species living up to 60 years. They are distinguishable from other fish by five rows of bony scutes along the length of their body, a protrusible mouth, and heterocercal tail.



Atlantic sturgeon swimming in the Virginia Aquarium and Living Museum. Photo credit: Edith Carson, NOAA

Protected Species under the Endangered Species Act

Shortnose sturgeon are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as an Endangered species throughout their range. Atlantic sturgeon are listed as five Distinct Population Segments with those that hatch out in Gulf of Maine rivers listed as threatened, and those that hatch out in other U.S. rivers listed as endangered.

Some Protections for Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon Include:

- It is illegal to fish for, catch or keep Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon or their parts commercially or recreationally.
- Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon are also protected under state laws - Check your state's wildlife webpage for state regulations on sturgeon.

For Further Information:

Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Program

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/snsturgeon/>

Atlantic Sturgeon Recovery Program

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/atlsturgeon/>