

NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Division Information Sheet

NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office's Protected Resources Division is charged with the protection and conservation of marine species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. This document provides information on management and other protective measures for protected marine species.

As a reminder: sea turtle and protected fish species caught, must be reported on the Fishing Vessel Trip Report (FVTR). Catch of marine mammals must be reported via the Marine Mammal Serious Injury and Mortality Reporting Form. Call (978) 281-9328 to request this reporting form or visit www.nero.noaa.gov/mmap.

Marine Mammal Take Reduction Plans

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)

ALWTRP regulations are intended to reduce the serious injury & mortality of the right, humpback & fin whales in commercial gillnet and trap/pot fisheries from Maine through Florida. The ALWTRP establishes gear modifications & marking requirements (e.g. sinking groundline, weak links, gillnet anchoring, buoy & buoy line marking) as well as seasonal management areas with varying requirements. NOAA Fisheries is in the process of developing a strategy to further reduce risk associated with vertical lines with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT). For more information, contact your ALWTRT representative or the ALWTRP Coordinator, Kate Swails, at (978) 282-8481 or visit the ALWTRP web page at www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/. If you have questions about gear requirements, please contact the fishery liaison for your area: John Higgins (207) 677-2316 in New England, Glenn Salvador (757) 414-0128 in the Mid-Atlantic, and David Hilton (252) 921-0142 in the Southeast.

Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRP)

HPTRP regulations are intended to reduce the serious injury and mortality of harbor porpoises in Northeast sink gillnet and Mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries from Maine through North Carolina. Conservation measures include pinger requirements, gear modifications, and time/area closures. For more information, contact the HPTRP Coordinator, Kate Swails, at (978) 282-8481 or visit the HPTRP web page at www.nero.noaa.gov/porptrp/. If you have questions about gear requirements, please contact the fishery liaison for your area (listed above under ALWTRP).

Atlantic Trawl Gear Take Reduction Strategy (ATGTRS)

The ATGTRS was developed to reduce the serious injury & mortality of pilot whales, common dolphins, & Atlantic white-sided dolphins from interactions with various Atlantic trawl fisheries. Conservation measures include identifying research and outreach strategies, voluntary measures, and monitoring component. For more information, contact the ATGTRT Coordinator, Kate Swails, at (978) 282-8481 or visit the ATGTRT web page at www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/atgtrp/. You may also contact the industry liaison for your area (listed under ALWTRP) with specific questions about the voluntary measures.

Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP)

The BDTRP reduces serious injury and mortality of strategic stocks of bottlenose dolphins of inshore and coastal waters in gillnet, trap/pot, beach/haul seine, long seine, roe mullet stop nets, menhaden purse seine, pound nets and shrimp trawl fisheries from New Jersey through the east coast of Florida. Conservation measures include gear restrictions and modifications. For more information, contact the BDTRP Coordinator, Stacey Horstman at (727) 824-5312 or visit the BDTRP web page at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/bdtrp.htm. For questions regarding gear requirements, please contact the fishery liaison for your area: Glenn Salvador (757) 414-0128 in the Mid-Atlantic or David Hilton (252) 921-0142 in the Southeast.

Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP)

The MMAP is a mandatory commercial fishermen's registration program that provides exemptions from the Marine Mammal Protection Act's prohibition on the taking of non-endangered/threatened marine mammals during commercial fishing activities. It applies to all fishermen who have a valid state or federal commercial fishing license permitting the use of gillnet, longline, trap/pots, mid-water or bottom trawl (including pair trawl and flynets), menhaden purse seine (mid-Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico), long haul seine (NC), roe mullet stop net (NC), pound net (VA), or any high seas Atlantic highly migratory species (outside 200 nautical miles). **MMAP Requirements:** (1) carry Authorization Certificate during fishing activities (Certificate is valid January 1 - December 31 of each calendar year), (2) carry observer when requested, (3) comply with applicable Take Reduction Plans (see above), and (4) report any marine mammal serious injury/mortality caused by fishing operation within 48 hours of the interaction using the Marine Mammal Mortality/Injury Reporting form (available on the MMAP website or by calling 978-281-9328). In the Northeast Region, fishermen are automatically registered for the year if they have a valid state/federal permit license as of January 1 each year. **If you are new to a fishery and have not received information on the MMAP, call (978) 281-9328 to register and request a Certificate.** Additional information is available on the MMAP website: www.nero.noaa.gov/mmap.

NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding and Disentanglement Program

NOAA Fisheries coordinates a large network of organizations that respond to stranded and entangled animals. Please immediately report sightings of dead, injured, or entangled marine animals to the hotline number below. Please take photos, and when possible, remain on scene until you have spoken to a responder.

Please Report

- Dead, injured, stranded or entangled whales, seals, dolphins, or sea turtles: **1-866-755-NOAA (6622) or USCG via Channel 16.** For more information, visit the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding and Disentanglement Program website at: www.nero.noaa.gov/rescue.
- Live right whale sightings: **1-866-755-NOAA (6622) or USCG via Channel 16.**
- Marine law violations: **NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement 1-800-853-1964.**

NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Sea Turtle Program

The NMFS Northeast Region's Sea Turtle Program works to manage, conserve, and rebuild populations of sea turtles in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic waters. There are five species of sea turtles found within Northeast Region waters. Within these waters, there are a number of regulations in place to help protect sea turtles. Vessels fishing with Atlantic sea scallop dredge gear south of 41° 9' N latitude are required to use chain-mat modified gear seasonally. In addition, all scallop dredge vessels (with limited exceptions) are required to use a Turtle Deflector Dredge (TDD) from May 1 through October 31 west of 71°W longitude. Turtle Excluder Device (TED) requirements are in place for summer flounder trawlers in the Summer Flounder-Sea Turtle Protection Area. Vessels fishing with large mesh (≥ 7 inches stretched) gillnets are subject to seasonal area closures in the Mid-Atlantic. Also, there are handling/resuscitation requirements that must be followed if a sea turtle is taken incidentally while fishing and the take must be reported on the Fishing Vessel Trip Report. Please note that there are also requirements related to pound nets, longlines, and shrimp trawls. For more information, contact the NER Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator, Carrie Upite at (978) 282-8475 or visit the sea turtle website at: www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/seaturtles.

Protected Fish Species

Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon

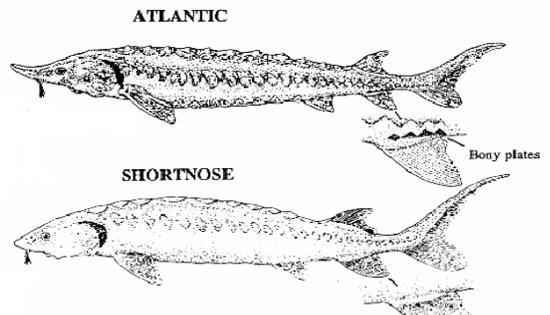
Sturgeon are distinguished from other fish by five rows of bony plates, called "scutes," that extend from the head to the base of the tail. They also have whisker-like "barbels" near the mouth that they use to find prey. Atlantic sturgeon can reach lengths over 14 feet, but shortnose sturgeon rarely reach 5 feet in length. Due to the ESA listings of shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon, neither species can be legally harvested in the U.S.

Atlantic Sturgeon

- **Endangered and threatened; illegal to harvest or possess.**
- Found in coastal waters, estuaries and major rivers along the U.S. East Coast.

Shortnose Sturgeon

- **Endangered; illegal to harvest or possess.**
- Primarily found in major rivers and estuaries along the U.S. East Coast with some migrations into coastal waters.



Additional species information is available at:

www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/esp

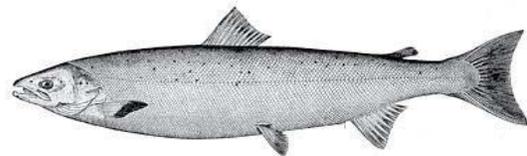
**If you catch a sturgeon, return it to the water immediately and report the catch to
Lynn Lankshear at (978) 282-8473 or Jessica Pruden at (978) 282-8482.**

Atlantic Salmon

Atlantic salmon have a spindle-like body shape – rounded, broad in the middle, and tapered at each end. The shape is somewhat flattened toward the sides, which is typical of salmonids in general. The head is relatively small, about one-fifth of the body length. Ventral (underside) paired fins are prominent, especially on juveniles.

Atlantic Salmon

- **The Gulf of Maine (GOM) distinct population segment (DPS) of Atlantic salmon is endangered. It is illegal to harvest or possess an Atlantic salmon from the GOM DPS.**
- The GOM DPS includes all anadromous Atlantic salmon from the Androscoggin watershed north to the Dennys River, the extent of their marine range, and all associated conservation hatchery populations.



Additional species information is available at:

www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/altsalmon

If you catch an Atlantic salmon within the GOM DPS, which includes the marine extent of their range, return it to the water immediately and report the catch to Dan Kircheis at (207) 866-7320.