

STURGEON SALVAGE FORM

Complete and Submit Within 30 Days of Salvage Event to nmfs.gar-sturgeon-salvage@noaa.gov

SALVAGE ID (see reverse for info)	LOCATION FOUND: Near/In Waterbody: _____ Lat. _____ N and Long. _____ W (decimal degrees)
DATE SALVAGED (MM/DD/YYYY) _____/_____/_____	OR Description: _____ _____ City _____ State _____

CO-INVESTIGATORS'S CONTACT INFORMATION		
Name: First _____	Last _____	Agency Affiliation _____
Email _____	Phone _____	
Address _____		

DESCRIPTION (check one for each column; see reverse for more info)		PHOTOS: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Species:	Sex:	Condition:
<input type="checkbox"/> Shortnose Sturgeon	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Dead
<input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Sturgeon	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately or Severely Decomposed
<input type="checkbox"/> Unidentified Sturgeon	<input type="checkbox"/> Unidentified	<input type="checkbox"/> Dried Carcass or Skeletal

MEASUREMENTS (in Centimeters): For partial carcasses, measure the straight line length of the salvaged part.		
Fork Length (cm) _____	Actual ___ or Estimated ___	
Total Length (cm) _____	Actual ___ or Estimated ___	
Partial Carcass Length (cm) _____	Actual ___ or Estimated ___	
Optional Precise Measurements if Species is Undetermined:		
Mouth width (cm) _____	Interorbital width (cm) _____	Ratio of Interorbital to Mouth Width _____ %

TAGS: <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if no tags were seen or detected (e.g., after scanning for a PIT tag)
Tag Type _____ Tag Number _____ Where on Fish _____
Tag Type _____ Tag Number _____ Where on Fish _____
Tag Type _____ Tag Number _____ Where on Fish _____

SAMPLES: <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if samples were not collected
Sample _____ Purpose _____ Preservative _____
Sample _____ Purpose _____ Preservative _____
Sample _____ Purpose _____ Preservative _____

WOUNDS, ABNORMALITIES, OTHER COMMENTS: <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if no wounds or abnormalities were found

Assigning a Salvage ID:

A Salvage ID must be assigned for each salvage event. Follow the instructions below to assign the Salvage ID number or, if you prefer, contact us at nmfs.gar-sturgeon-salvage@noaa.gov and we will assign the Salvage ID number. The Salvage ID number should be entered on the salvage form. Any parts of the sturgeon retained from the salvage event, as well as any subsamples of those, must be identified with the Salvage ID number.

The format for the Salvage ID is the three letters to identify the species (i.e., "Abr" for shortnose, "Aoo" for Atlantic, and "Unk" for unknown sturgeon), followed by two digits for the month in which the salvage occurred, followed by the three-digit sequential number for the particular salvage event for that species in that month and in the state where the salvage occurred, followed by the year (four digits), followed by the state abbreviation. For example, the first Atlantic sturgeon salvaged in Delaware in May 2018 would be "Aoo050012018DE". The second shortnose sturgeon salvaged in New York in June 2018 would be "Abr060022018NY".

Carcass Condition: The following descriptions should be used to identify carcass condition

- Fresh Dead - Normal appearance and body intact with no or minimal scavenger damage. Fresh smell, minimal drying and wrinkling of skin or mucous membranes, eyes clear, muscles firm, viscera intact and well-defined. Body holds together when moved.
- Moderately or Severely Decomposed - Bloating evident or already collapsed. Dry, sunken, or missing eyes. Often with scavenger damage, possibly severe. Noticeable odor. At best, muscles soft and internal organs not well defined. At worse, muscles are nearly liquefied and internal organs are unidentifiable. Body may fall apart when moved.
- Dried carcass, skeletal, scutes, and cartilage - At best, skin may be draped over skeletal remains; any remaining tissues are desiccated. At worse, only pieces of dried carcass or skeleton can be found and identified.

Identifying Characteristics of Shortnose and Atlantic Sturgeon (any DPS)

Characteristic	Shortnose	Atlantic
Maximum length	122 cm/4 feet	274 cm/9 feet
Mouth	Width inside lips > 62% of bony interorbital width. Wide and oval compared to Atlantics	Width inside lips < 55% of bony interorbital width. Less wide than shortnose
*Pre-anal plates	1-3 pre-anal plates almost always occurring as median structures (occurring singly)	Paired plates posterior to the rectum and anterior to the anal fin
Plates along anal fin	No plates along base of anal fin	Rhombic, bony plates found along lateral base of anal fin (see diagram below)
Habitat/Range	Freshwater amphidromous; Does make some coastal migrations	Anadromous; spawn in freshwater but primarily lead a marine existence

*From Vecsei and Peterson, 2004

