



Proper Handling and Releasing of Lake Sturgeon



Guidelines for handling and releasing sturgeon:

- Before you bring a big sturgeon into your boat, make sure fishing rods, tackle boxes, and other loose objects are out of the way.
- Do not drop the fish on the bottom of the boat when bringing the fish aboard.
- Always support sturgeon horizontally. **Do Not** hold sturgeon in a vertical position by their head, gills, or tails.
- Never touch the fish's eyes or gills.
- Minimize the time the sturgeon is out of the water.
- Gently return the fish to the water and use two people for large fish.
- Revive the fish by supporting it in the water until it is ready to swim off on its own power (this could take a few minutes or more than half an hour).
- Visit www.michigan.gov/sturgeon for more information.



Held vertically for demonstration purposes



For more information or to report a tagged fish contact:

Jan-Michael Hessenauer
Fisheries Research Biologist
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
33135 South River Road
Harrison Township, MI 48045
Phone: 586-465-4771 Ext. 35
Email: hessenauerj1@michigan.gov





Being Prepared to Fish for Lake Sturgeon



Angling Guidelines:

- Some sturgeon are just too big to safely bring into your boat. Consider releasing them without bringing them into the boat.
- Use tackle that is suitable for landing a fish that weighs 100 pounds, or more.
- Large landing net.
- Gloves, especially for handling small sturgeon that have razor-sharp projections (scutes).
- Pliers to remove hooks from fish. Sturgeon are almost always hooked in the mouth, which is made of tough cartilage.
- Camera.
- A wet towel to place over the fish's head when measuring. This helps calm the fish.
- Device to accurately measure the length of a long fish. We see fish over 70 inches long.
- Device, such as a seamstress tape, to measure maximum girth for weight estimation.
- A pen or pencil and a pad of paper to record numbers from tagged fish that you catch.



Measuring Maximum Total Length of a Lake Sturgeon



Example of a 45.5 inch long Lake Sturgeon

JOIN St. Clair-Detroit River Sturgeon For Tomorrow

- Meet other sturgeon anglers & conservationists
- Learn successful techniques from other anglers
- Help promote lake sturgeon conservation
- Protect lake sturgeon angling for future generations

Join online at www.stclairsturgeon.org

Report All Poaching (RAP) of Lake Sturgeon
[RAP Hotline](http://www.stclairsturgeon.org): 1-800-292-7800

Practice catch and release!

