



Brought to you by St. Clair-Detroit River Sturgeon for Tomorrow

## Results of the 2025 North Channel Sturgeon Classic

The 11th North Channel Sturgeon Classic was held on Saturday, September 27th in Clay Township, Michigan. This year 27 teams registered on-line, and 24 teams fished the event. The Classic is a fund raiser for St. Clair-Detroit River Sturgeon for Tomorrow (a 501(c)(3) non-profit group). This tournament is a catch and immediate release event with digital photos taken onboard each vessel and then texted to tournament judges to report each fish. Teams were encouraged to report all the sturgeon caught during the event. A total of \$2,500 in cash prizes are awarded for the top 3 longest sturgeon recorded. There were also 3 additional prizes including shortest sturgeon, 1 randomly drawn mystery fish, and the highest total combined length for all sturgeon registered by a single team.

The 2025 Classic was a daytime event, with fishing from 9am to 5pm. The weather was spectacular with sunshine, light winds, and cool morning temperatures followed by afternoon temperatures warming into the 70's. As a result, all 24 teams fished the entire 8 hours.

A total of 64 sturgeon was reported during the 8 hours of fishing. Seventeen teams (or 71%) reported at least 1 sturgeon. Five teams reported 5 fish or more: Team 1 (No Pressure 2.0, 6 sturgeon), Team 2 (Rudderless, 5 sturgeon), Team 3 (Sturgeon Generals, 9 fish), Team 6 (Finns Sport Fishing, 7 fish), and Team 17 (Spiekhout, 6 fish).

The first fish (Fish 1, 26 3/8") was caught at 9:17am and the last fish (Fish 64, 62 1/4") was hooked just before 5pm. The most productive hour was from 2-3pm when 11 fish were reported. At least four of the registered fish had been previously tagged by the Michigan DNR. The teams were encouraged to report their tagged fish catches to the DNR.

The largest sturgeon registered was 78 1/8" in length and the smallest was 19 3/4". A total of 12 (19%) sturgeon recorded were over 60" in length, while 13 (20%) were less than 30" in length. Nine (14%) of the registered fish fell within the 42"-50" slot limit size range, but no fish were harvested during the event (tournament rule prohibits harvest during the event).

At 10:32am, "Finns Sport Fishing" grabbed the early lead with a brute that measured 67 3/4". That fish held first place until 1:22pm when "Beer Money" landed a behemoth that measured 78 1/8 inches, setting a new all-time record for longest sturgeon for the Classic. That fish stood up through the rest of the day and took home the 1st place prize of \$1,500. At 4:02pm, "Rudderless"

registered a beauty that was 69 7/8 inches and took home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize of \$750. Finns Sport Fishing finished with the 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize of \$250 for the 67 3/4 incher.

The Awards Ceremony was held at 6:30pm at the Clay Township Park. Cash prizes were awarded to the top 3 longest sturgeon registered as indicated in the photos and table below. In addition, 3 other prizes were awarded for 1 randomly drawn mystery fish, the highest total combined length for sturgeon caught by a single team, and the shortest sturgeon. Team 3, “Sturgeon Generals”, won the highest combined length for sturgeon caught with a total 424.75” for 9 sturgeon. End to end, they caught over 35 feet of sturgeon! The smallest sturgeon, a 19 3/4” scutie, was recorded by Team 27 “Da Outdoor Hour”.

Cash prize winning fish for the 2025 North Channel Sturgeon Classic were:

Time registered	Fish number	Length	Team	Team Name	Cash Prize
1:22pm	27	78 1/8”	20	Beer Money	1 <sup>st</sup> : \$1,500
4:02am	57	69 7/8”	2	Rudderless	2 <sup>nd</sup> : \$750
10:32am	9	67 3/4”	6	Finns Sport Fishing	3 <sup>rd</sup> : \$250



1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$1,500): Fish #27, registered at 1:22pm, 78 1/8”, Team 20 “Beer Money”



2025 North Channel Sturgeon Classic  
2nd Place – 69 7/8"

2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$750): Fish #57, registered at 4:02pm, 69 7/8", Team 2 "Rudderless"



2025 North Channel Sturgeon Classic  
3rd Place – 67 3/4"

3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$250): Fish #9, registered at 10:32am, 67 3/4", Team 6 "Finns Sport Fishing"