



GREEN STURGEON

Acipenser medirostris
Acipenseridae, the sturgeon family

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- The Green Sturgeon has the potential to become invasive in Idaho. However, the Southern Distinct Population Segment of North American Green Sturgeon are listed under the Endangered Species Act as of April 7, 2006.
- This species is long-lived, slow-growing, and vulnerable to many stressors.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- The Green Sturgeon is a primary cartilaginous fish with bony plates called scutes along their backs and sides.
- They are often compared to sharks due to their spiracles, jaw and fin structure, spiral valve, Ampullae of Lorenzi (organs that allow them to detect electrical signals), and tail with uneven lobes.
- They have a pointed snout with barbels between the tip of the snout and the mouth.
- They do not have teeth but use their long, flexible lips to suck up food.
- They are olive to dark green on their back, and have a yellowish belly with a green stripe on each side.

Introduction and Movement

- The Green Sturgeon is native to the United States, Canada, and Russia. However, it is not native to Idaho.
- It was first described in San Francisco Bay in 1857. They are anadromous (they migrate up rivers from the sea to spawn) but spend more time in the ocean than other sturgeon species.

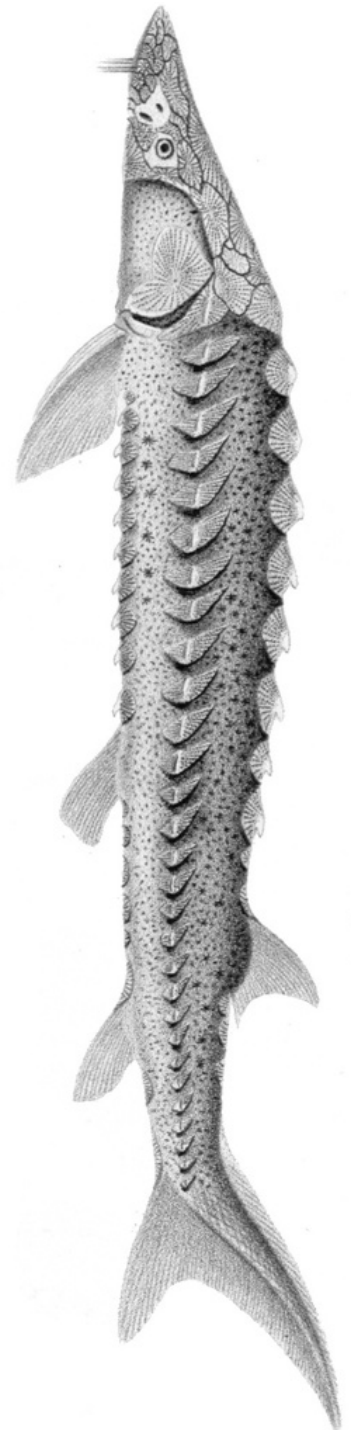
Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that all watercraft, wading gear, and other water related equipment are clean, drained, and dry between use in each waterbody..
- Use of live bait is prohibited in Idaho.
- Never release any animal or plant into the wild.
- Can escape from aquaculture facilities or water gardens in areas prone to flooding.
- Always Remember:

CLEAN → DRAIN → DRY

Sources

- NOAA Fisheries: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/green-sturgeon>
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/species/acipenser-medirostris#climate
- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/95634>



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