

Shortnose Sturgeon

Acipenser brevirostrum



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Species Description



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The Shortnose Sturgeon is a long-lived, late maturing and heavily-armoured fish that is brownish green with light undersides. Its elongate body is covered by five rows of bony plates (scutes). Adults are reproductive at about 45 cm in length and can grow up to 1.2 m long. Its snout (proboscis) becomes short and rounded with age and has four barbels in front of the mouth. It has 19-22 dorsal fin rays, 19-22 anal fin rays, and a v-shaped tail with the upper lobe longer than the lower one.

Key ID Features: *short, rounded snout *19-22 fin rays *smooth, slippery skin

STATUS



Special Concern COSEWIC

Special Concern SARA

The Shortnose Sturgeon occurs along the Eastern Coast of North America from New Brunswick south to Florida in fresh and brackish waters. It is known to spawn only in the Saint John River in Canada, with recent sightings confirmed in Minas Basin.

Population Range



Interesting Points

- The first verified record for this species in waters off NS was in 2013 in the Minas Basin. Please report your sightings!
- Smallest of the three sturgeon species and can live 65+ years.



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Threats

- Illegal fishing.
- Incidental catch in gaspereau and shad fishery.
- Heavy metal bioaccumulation.
- Hydroelectric dams.
- Chemical contaminants.
- Introduction of invasive fish such as white or lake sturgeon.

Short nose and wide mouth



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Learn how you can help on page 136.

Sturgeon research in the Minas Basin.

Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes, www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Sighting Reports: Report any tagged Atlantic or Shortnose Sturgeon (yellow- Acadia U or white/blue-UNB) to the address on the tag. Report sightings to mike.dadswell@acadiau.ca