

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

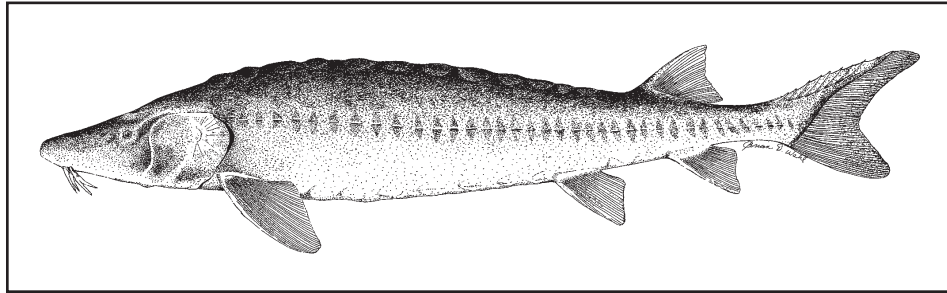
Division of Wildlife

Life History Notes

Lake Sturgeon

Common Names: Great Lakes or Rock sturgeon

Scientific Name: *Acipenser fulvescens*



**State
Endangered
Species**

Publication 299
(R999)

Identification

The lake sturgeon has numerous body plates on its back, sides, and belly. This fish has no scales and the skin is very coarse. The mouth is located on the underside of snout and is an extendible tube-like structure with four long barbels.

Range and Habitat

Native to Lake Erie and the Ohio River drainage, although it is now probably extinct in the Ohio River area. Requires large rivers and lakes.

Life History

Lake sturgeon spawn in fast flowing rivers or over lake shoals with clean cobble to boulder substrates sometime in May or June. Preferred spawning depth is between 2 and 15 feet. Fe-

males reach sexual maturity at 20 to 25 years of age and carry 4,000 to 5,000 eggs per pound of body weight. Individuals will only spawn once every four to seven years. Lake sturgeon can live as long as 150 years. Adults eat a wide range of invertebrates, some fish, and plant material found on clay, sand, and gravel substrates.

Adult Size

Lake sturgeon can exceed 6 feet in length and weigh more than 200 pounds.

Fishing Methods

Lake sturgeon are a state endangered species and if caught must be returned to the water immediately.