



all sturgeon images, graphics, & design 2013 by G.R.F.Cortes - www.acipensergifts.com - acgifts@yahoo.com

Tom Brooking

**Founder, NY
Chapter**

Started in 2012

**Other Chapters:
MI, WI**



Public Education

- **Inform public about regulations**
- **Educate public about sturgeon research activities**
- **Answer questions**
 - **Is that real?**
 - **How big do they get?**
 - **How long do they live?**
 - **Where are they stocked?**
 - **Is it legal to catch one?**
 - **When can we open a season for them?**
- **Website and Facebook page**
 - **Search NY Sturgeon For Tomorrow**





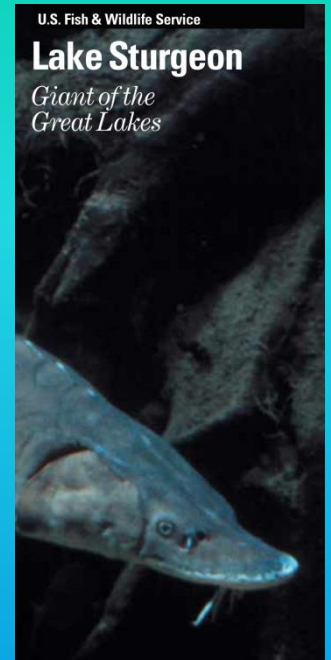
Handouts

Brochures

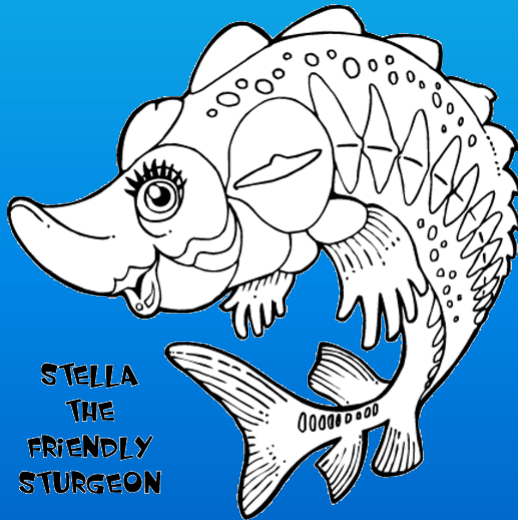
Stickers (>2000)



Team Sturgeon Cards (>5k)



Coloring Sheets (>1,100)



NAME: _____ AGE: _____

Sturgeon in New York



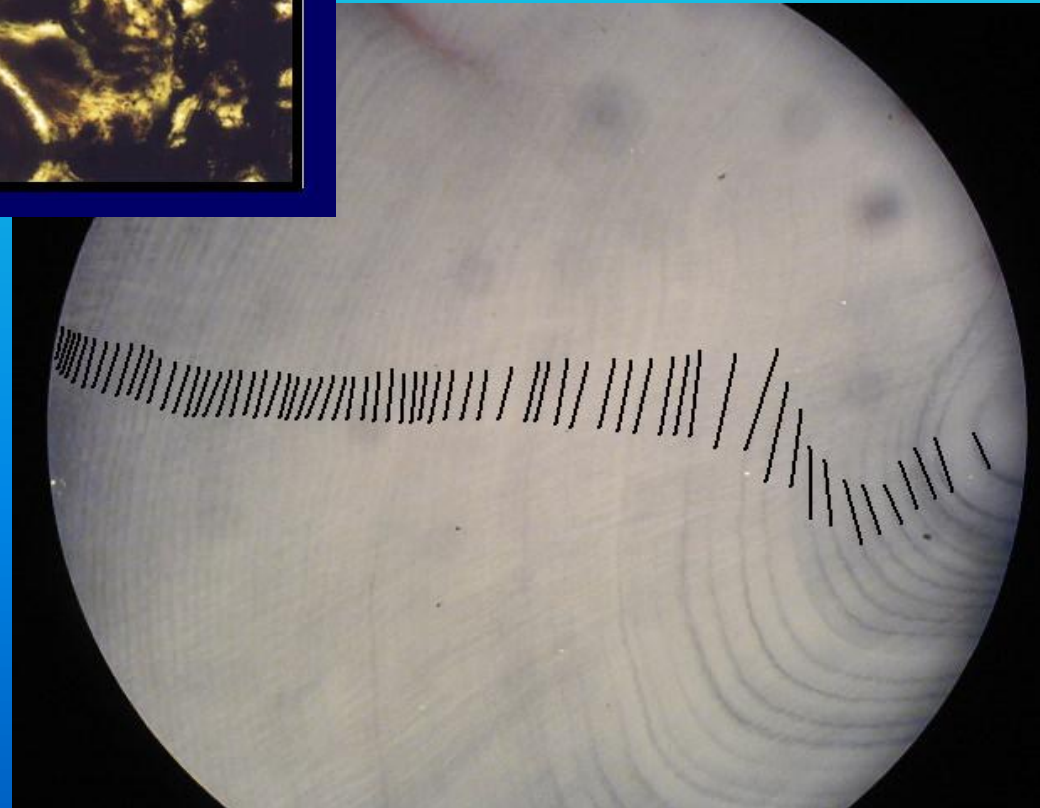
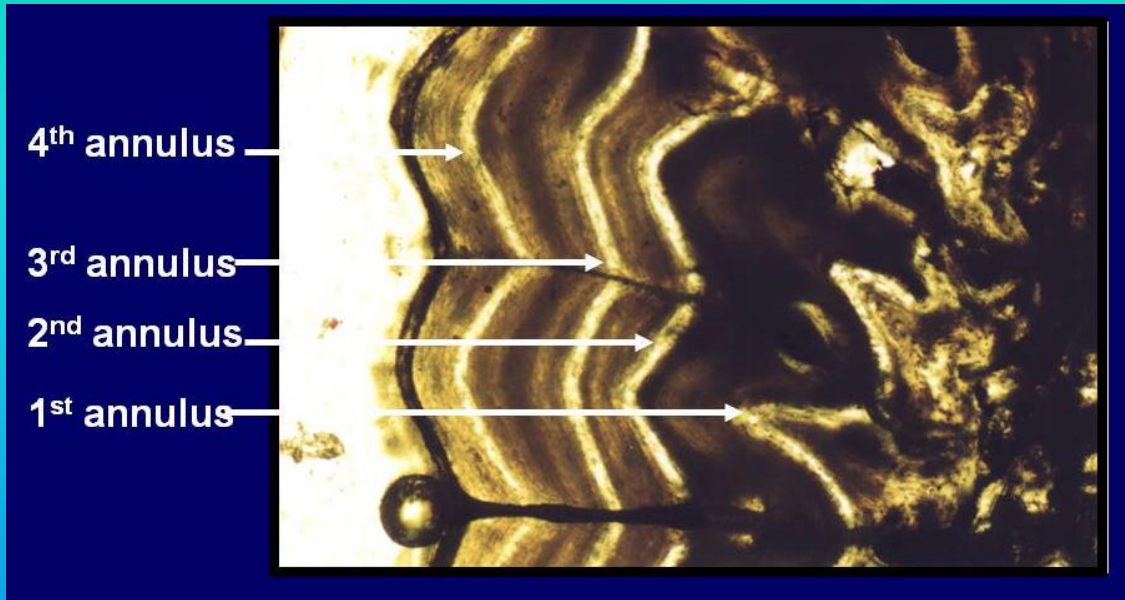
Credit: GLFC



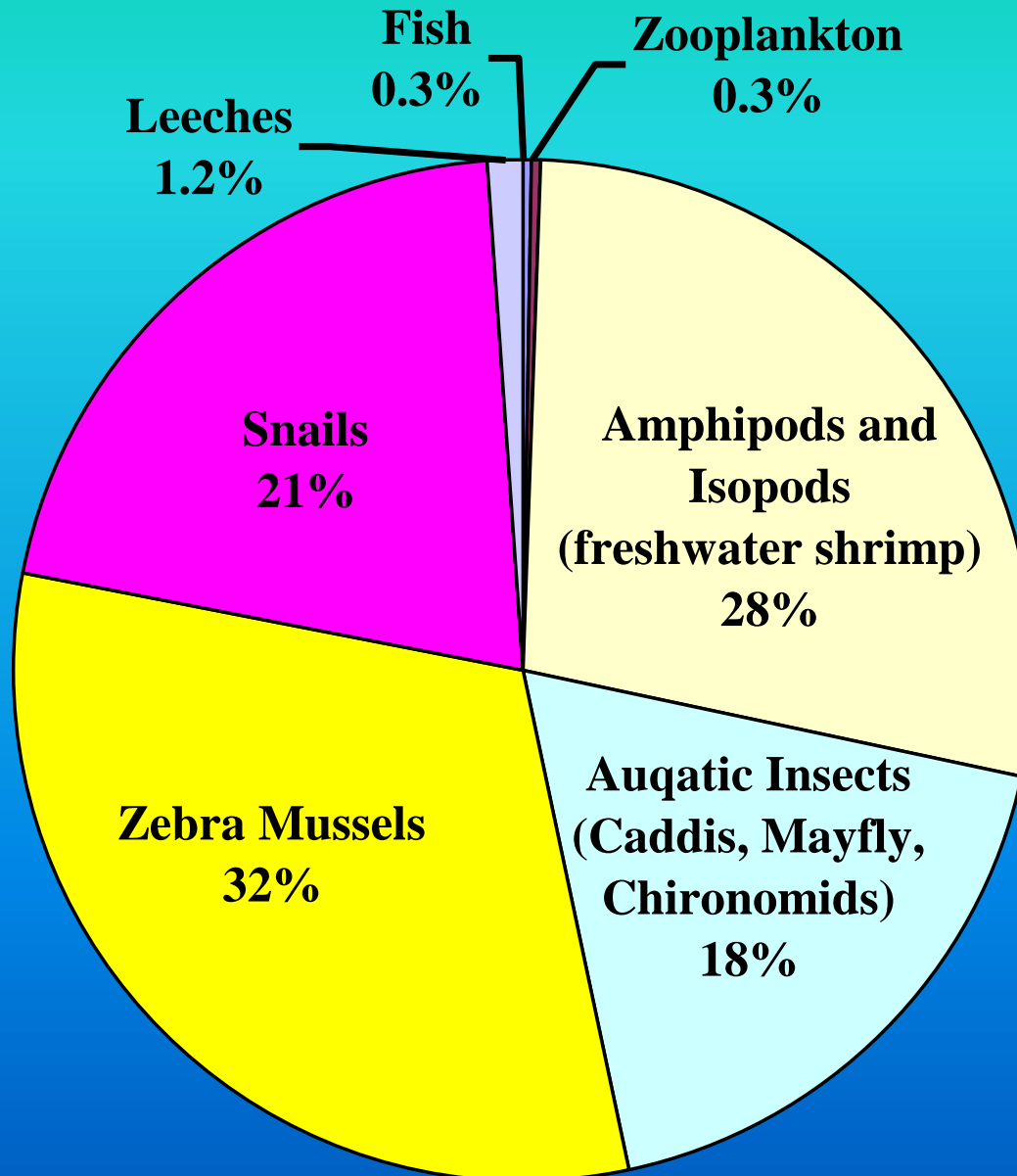
Background

- **3 species of sturgeon in NY**
- **Lake sturgeon historically found Great Lakes**
- **Run up rivers in spring to spawn, shoals in lake**
- **Lake sturgeon –**
 - **Max. 8-9', 300 lbs**

Sturgeon can live over 150 years!



Bottom feeder – eat almost no fish



- **Do not spawn 1st time until 16+ years old**
- **Produce caviar – sturgeon eggs – overharvest**
- **Built dams on spawning streams**



NYSDEC/USFWS

Sturgeon stocking program 2022

Date	Location	No. Fish	Size	Hatchery
8/12/2022	St. Lawrence R - Massena	9,801	2.85 in	NYSDEC - Oneida
8/10/2022	St. Lawrence R - Massena	24,994	2.3 in	USFWS - Genoa
9/30/2022	Chaumont Bay	1,798	6.25 in	NYSDEC - Oneida
10/12/2022	St. Lawrence R - Ogdensburg	6,700	6.24 in	USFWS - Genoa
10/5/2022	Genesee R	1,000	6.15 in	NYSDEC - Oneida
10/12/2022	Oneida L	500	6.15 in	NYSDEC - Oneida
10/7/2022	Cayuga L	2,500	6.15 in	NYSDEC - Oneida
10/5/2022	Black L	1,340	6.3 in	USFWS - Genoa
10/5/2022	Oswegatchie R	1,340	6.3 in	USFWS - Genoa
10/5/2022	Raquette R	1,340	6.3 in	USFWS - Genoa
10/5/2022	St. Regis R	1,340	6.3 in	USFWS - Genoa
10/5/2022	Salmon R (Franklin Co)	1,340	6.3 in	USFWS - Genoa

Stocked 53,993 baby sturgeon in 2022

NYSDEC/USFWS Sturgeon stocking program 1993-2022


	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Lake Ontario		3250	7500		2200	2255	8728	2250		1798	27,981
Genesee River	1047	500	1000	506	1000	1000	2000	940	1000	1000	11,893
Cayuga Lake	2500	1000	2500	659	2319	2500	5000	4320	2500	2500	29,570
Oneida Lake		500	500	510	497	500	1000	500	500	500	13,133
St. Law. River - Middle Corridor	7000	5250	2500		1100	2000	30104	9650	8000	6700	74,438
St. Law. River - Lake St. Francis	500		300	300	500	500	22205	514	14890	34795	74,804
Oswegatchie R.		500			1000	1000	2000	1000	1400	1340	43,035
Black Lake		942	2000	500	1080	1000	2187	1000	1400	1340	23,759
Grasse River											2,500
Raquette River	1000	1000	500	500	1000	1000	2000	1000	1400	1340	11,600
St. Regis River	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2000	1000	1400	1340	17,087
Salmon R. (Malone)	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2000	1000	1400	1340	12,577
Annual Totals	14,047	15,442	10,500	4,475	12,696	13,755	79,224	23,174	33,890	53,993	332,212

Stocked over 332,000 baby sturgeon in 27 years

NYup.com

DEC stocking thousands of threatened lake sturgeon in NY waters this month (video)

Updated Jan 29, 2019; Posted Oct 12, 2018



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RETURN OF THE LAKE STURGEON



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Cayuga Lake sturgeon showing progress, DEC says

By Nick Reynolds Jun 9, 2017



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Outdoor News

A sign of progress, hope for lake sturgeon restoration in Cayuga Lake

June 12, 2017 by Staff and News Reports

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation fisheries biologist Emily Zollweg-Horan visited Fall Creek in Ithaca, N.Y., a tributary of Cayuga Lake, where she saw several 5- to 6-foot lake sturgeon congregating near the Lake Avenue Bridge in what is hoped may be a regular spawning run.



Oneida Lake - Sturgeon Timeline



1st fish caught in gillnet

1996

1st fish in spawning streams

2004

1995

Stocking began

1999

1st angler tag return

2003

1st ripe male; also 1st year with many angler reports

2012

1st ripe female found; Anglers report baby fish

2013



Oneida Lake – 26 wild sturgeon, 10 different years of spawning



Oneida Lake - May 2, 2013
96 lb Lake Sturgeon
USGS Fisheries Survey - Emily Waldt



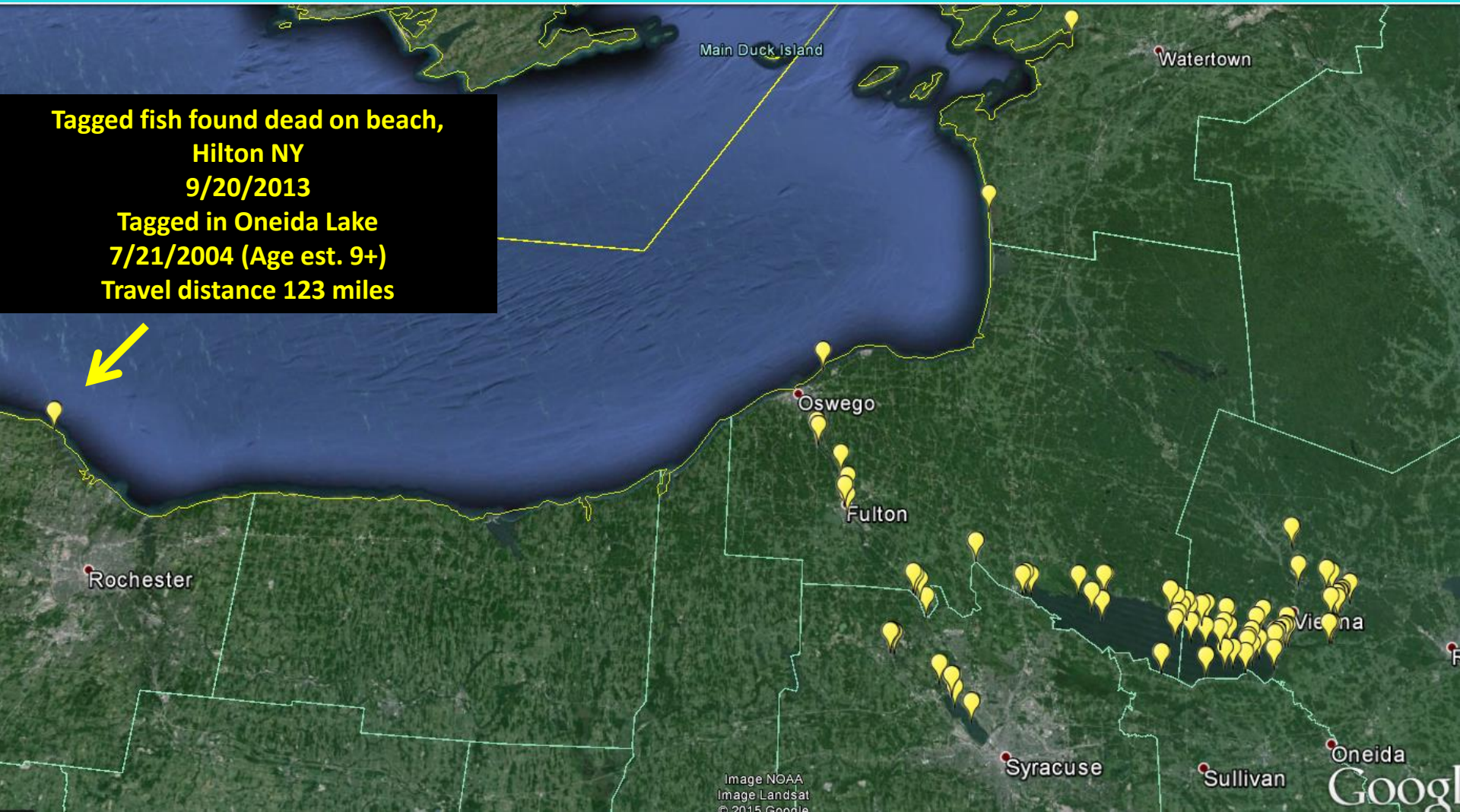
**159 lb
Sturgeon**

Oneida Lake

June 2022



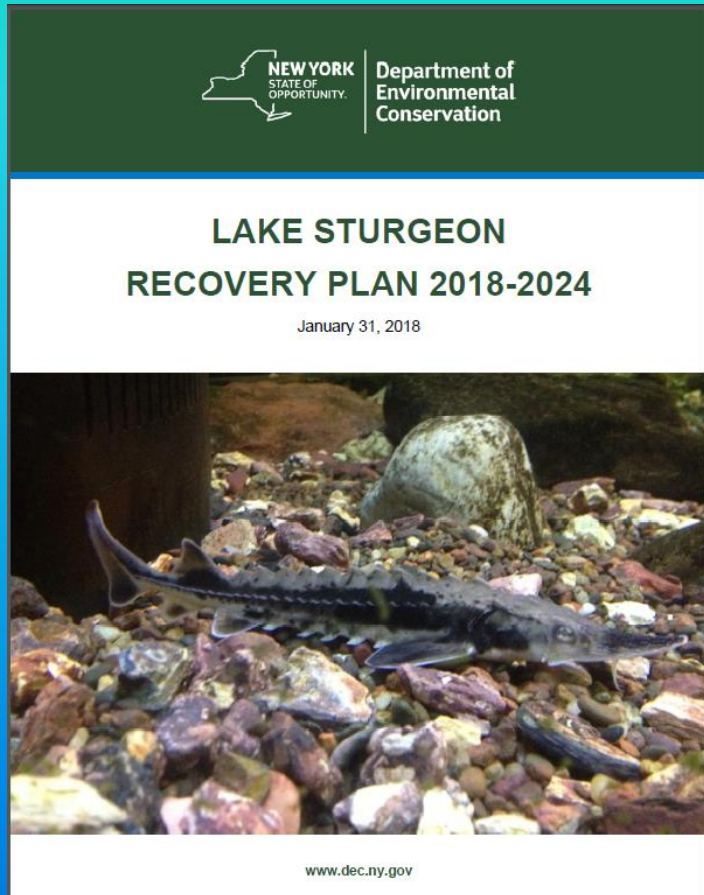
Angler catches and tag returns of Oneida Lake sturgeon



Tagged fish found dead on beach,
Hilton NY
9/20/2013

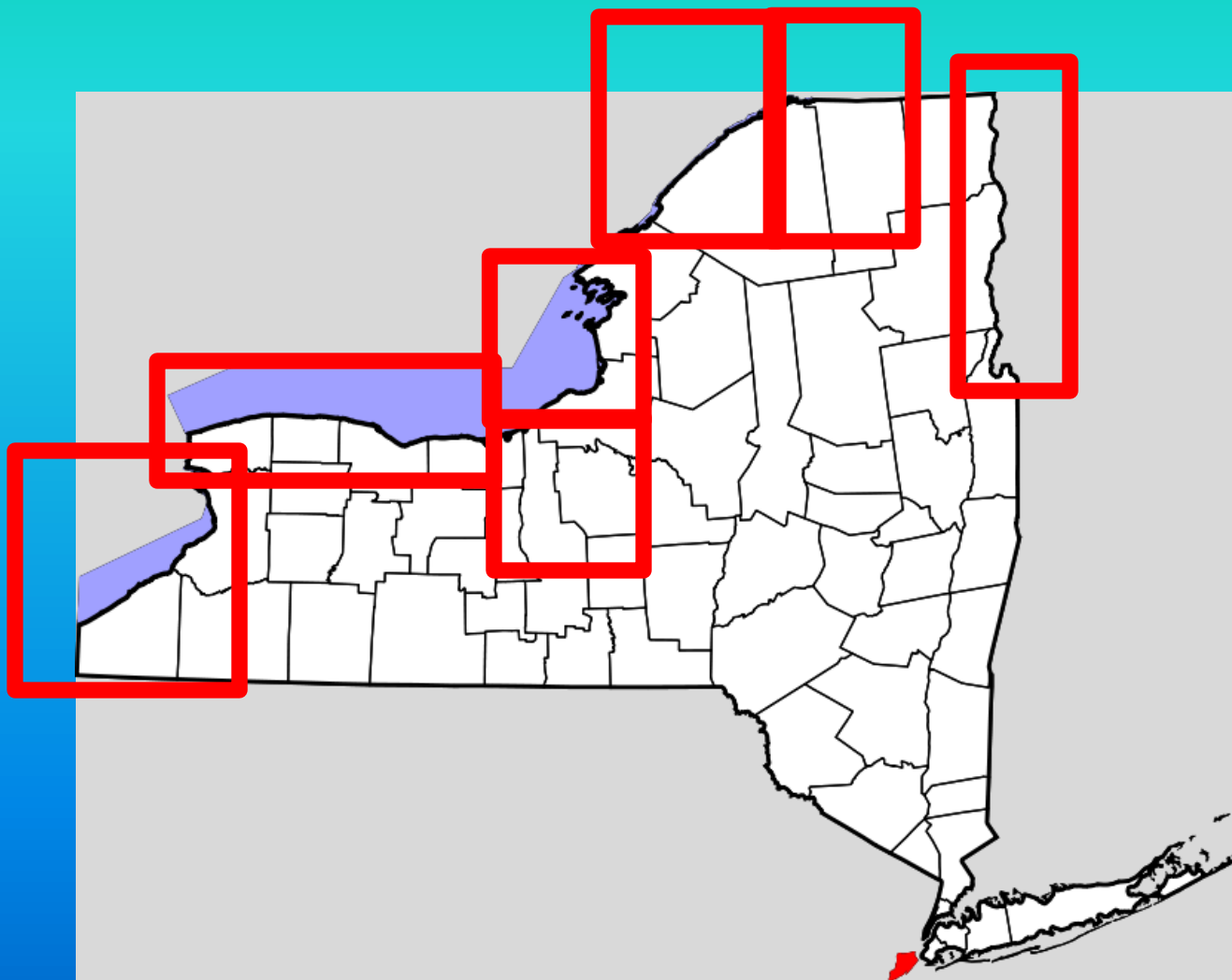
Tagged in Oneida Lake
7/21/2004 (Age est. 9+)
Travel distance 123 miles

Statewide Perspective




- **NYSDEC**
- **Recovery Plan released March 2018**
- **Divides state into 7 Mgt. Units**
- **Continue stocking and habitat mgt.**
- **Goals:**
 - **750 adult spawning stock per Unit**
 - **3 years natural reproduction**
 - **Recovery in at least 6 of 7 Units**
- **Initiate action to de-list**
- **Consider potential of a very limited, well-controlled fishery**
- **UPDATE - Assessment Report 2021**
- **Target date for completion - 2024**

7 Management Units



2021 Lake Sturgeon Recovery Dashboard

Goals
 Met
 Not Met

 More Data Needed

 Highly Positive Trend

 Positive Trend

Management Unit	Adult Goal	Reproduction Goal	Unit Recovery
Species Recovery Goal = 6 Management Units Recovered 	>750 spawning adults total; ≥ 150 spawning adults per spawning site in the MU	>3 naturally reproduced year classes in a 5 year period	Both Adult Goal and Reproduction Goal met
MU 1: Lake Erie			
MU 2: Western Lake Ontario			
MU 3: Central NY  			
MU 4: Eastern Lake Ontario  			
MU 5: Upper St. Lawrence River 			
MU 6: Lower St. Lawrence River			
MU 7: Lake Champlain 			

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Home » Home Page News » DEC looks to remove lake sturgeon from threatened

DEC looks to remove lake sturgeon from threatened list in New York no later than 2024

Staff and News Reports // April 13, 2018



While Lake Champlain lies between Vermont and New York there is no indication, even historically, that sturgeon ever reproduced on the New York side of the lake.

Hand-Pic

Department of eating smelt f
Victor Skinner /

Michigan's U.I.
stable for year
DNR Report // J

Ohio Outdoor
State's turkey
fall season
Ohio Letters to

Ohio Insider:
season for ma
Mike Moore // J

Ohio nature p
thanks to new
DNR Report // J

Ohio Mixed B.
of raccoon di
Staff Report // J

More than \$4
Lake Erie

As of 2022:

- **4 Management units are considered Recovered**
- **1 Management Unit likely to be considered Recovered in 2023**
- **6 of 7 Units needed to initiate de-listing actions**

Mud Lock

Cayuga Outlet/Seneca Canal

Dawn Dittman – USGS Tunison Lab



- **Many reports from fishermen**
- **Netting confirmed ripe male 2006**
- **Installed spawning habitat – large cobble**
- **Estimating adult population**
- **Monitoring for eggs and young**

Telemetry Project in Cayuga Outlet

Dawn Dittman – USGS Tunison Lab



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Tracking Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon in the Cayuga-Seneca Canal System

Release Date: JULY 5, 2019

Tracking Movement in a New York State Lake Sturgeon Recovery Plan Critical Habitat

USGS Research Ecologist Dr. Dawn Dittman (GLSC, Cortland, New York) and her sturgeon research team recently tagged five lake sturgeon in the Cayuga-Seneca Canal System of New York with acoustic transmitters. The tags will allow tracking of these individuals for eight years. Additional fish will be tagged in Fall 2019. Analysis of movement data will give the team insight to migration patterns within this highly modified riverine system and will allow the identification of critical spawning and overwintering habitats. The New York Canal System is an integral part of the available habitat in the Central New York Management Unit identified in the New York State Lake Sturgeon Recovery Plan.

Contacts

[Dawn Dittman](#)

Research Ecologist

Great Lakes Science Center

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Phone: 607-753-9391



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Artificial Spawning Beds

Conference Paper

"Lake Sturgeon Spawning Beds on the St. Lawrence River Near Waddington and Massena, NY"

August 2014

Conference: American Fisheries Society 144th Annual Meeting

Authors:



Ben Lenz
HDR

[Download citation](#)

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Abstract

Two pairs of artificial lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) spawning beds were installed on the St. Lawrence River near Waddington and Massena, NY, respectively. Each bed is approximately 900 m²; 0.3 m thick; and consists of 5-10 cm diameter crushed stone. Eight to 10 large head-down lake sturgeon were observed at each bed.



CAYUGA
LAKE

C-S Canal Lock 1 (Mud Lock)

136 River Road
Cayuga, NY 13034
[Get Directions](#)

Trips featuring this location: C-S Canal Lock 1 to Cayuga Lake State Park, Cayuga Lake State Park to C-S Canal Lock 1, C-S Canal Lock 1 to John Harris Park

This site is part of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal portion of the Erie Canal system and is maintained by NYS DEC on behalf of NYS Canal Corporation. The State has recently

Map

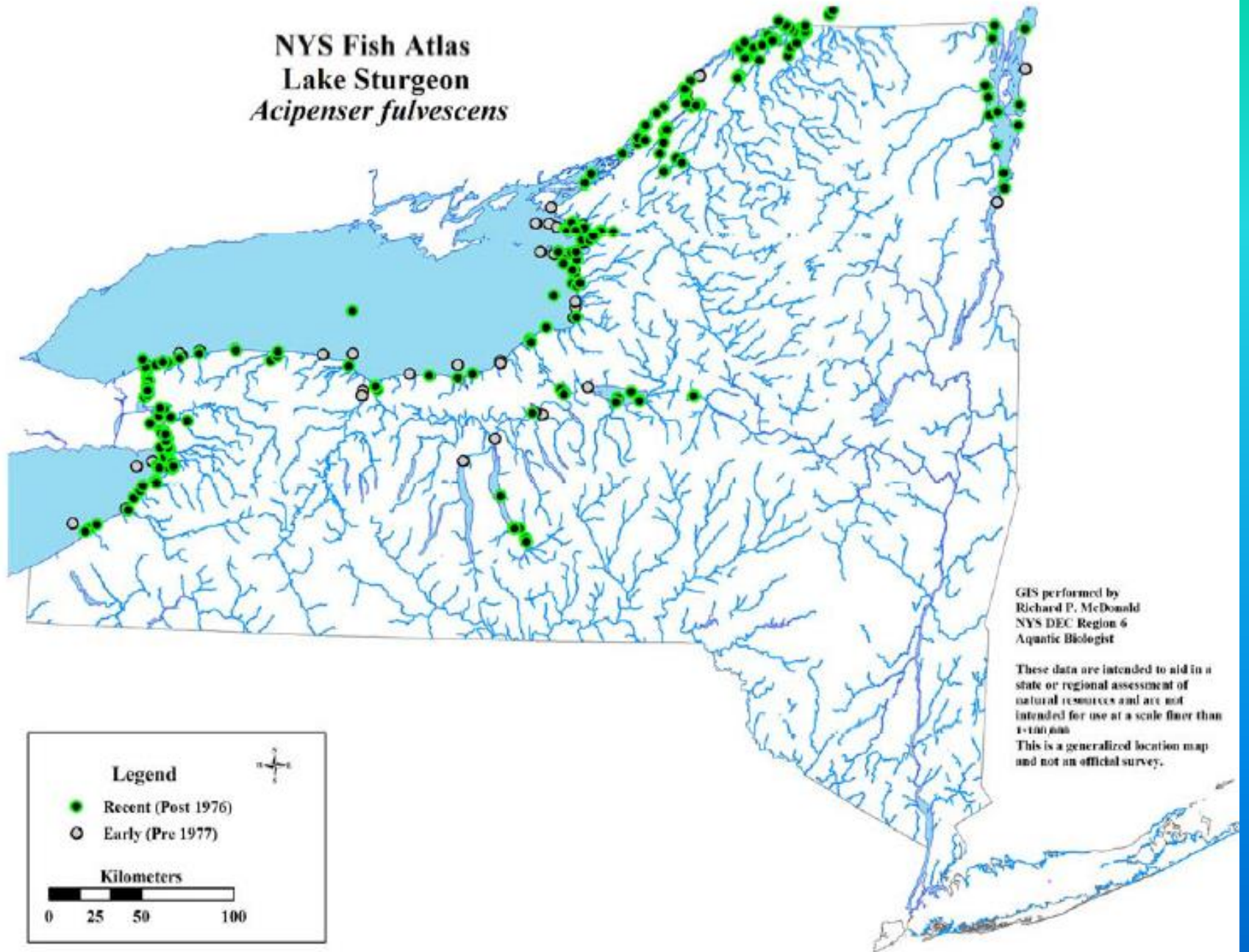
Sat

USFWS

Federal Listing Status Review

- **May 23, 2018 – Lawsuit**
- **Center For Biological Diversity – legal activist group from Washington DC**
- **Petition to list Lake Sturgeon as Threatened or Endangered nationwide**
- **Forces multi-state Official Status Review**
- **Outcome uncertain**
- **Complicates statewide de-listing goals**

NYS Fish Atlas
Lake Sturgeon
Acipenser fulvescens





**Huge thanks to
New York State Conservation Council
Chuck Parker, Mike Elam**



Questions?



Credit: GLFC

