

SEABOARD FISHERIES INSTITUTE

1st Symposium on Atlantic Sturgeon

A Regional Approach to Atlantic Sturgeon Recovery

February 23-25, 2009

University of Delaware, Clayton Hall Conference Center

Newark, Delaware

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium will focus attention on the challenges and opportunities for enhancing an understanding of Atlantic sturgeon and for developing effective strategies for its restoration and recovery. An overarching goal of the Symposium is to foster collaborative regional approaches to restoring and protecting Atlantic sturgeon populations and their associated essential habitats. The Symposium will be held concurrently with a meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Atlantic Sturgeon Technical Committee.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a forum that will facilitate information exchange and discussions between expert scientists and stake holders
- To ensure that decision makers are aware of the species' growing importance and provide them with information necessary to improve policy with regard to the species recovery
- To promote a regional dialog and to identify research needs and appropriate approaches for regional restoration strategies
- To identify and prioritize actions that can accelerate the development and implementation of such strategies

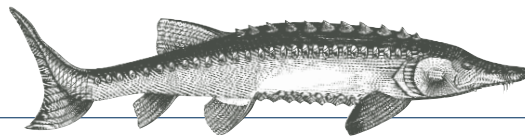
AUDIENCE

The symposium will draw together scientists, managers and other interested parties along the U.S. eastern seaboard fostering a species wide perspective. Regional presentations will provide a forum for more focused discussions. The target audience includes participants from research institutions, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and industry.

THEMES AND TOPICS

1. Status of Atlantic sturgeon populations with case studies of current research efforts
2. Essential Atlantic sturgeon habitats, what we know, what we need to know
3. Genetic differentiation among Atlantic sturgeon populations
4. The role of aquaculture for restocking and as a tool for assessing ecological aspects
5. Outcomes of a potential Endangered Species Act listing
6. Restoration and recovery: lessons to be learned from others, current initiatives, future strategies
7. Panel discussion – moving forward to enhance Atlantic sturgeon recovery efforts

Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus Symposium '09



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PRESENTATION AND SESSION FORMATS

Presenters will be asked to submit extended abstracts for symposium presentations. Presentations may follow two format options:

Dedicated Session Presentations will focus on the main themes of the Symposium. Session chairs will assemble a group of presentations focusing on a particular topic.

Contributed Posters—posters highlighting relevant topics relating to sturgeon species will be displayed in a designated area during the Symposium with a 90-minute poster session allotted to allow Poster Presenters to discuss their work with other Symposium attendees.

TIMELINES AND DATES

A call for abstracts will be made in November 2008. Presentation abstracts and early registration will be due January 9, 2009. The Symposium will be held February 23-25, 2009.

PROCEEDINGS

A white paper presenting an executive summary of the Symposium and extended abstracts will be developed and published.

SPONSORS

The Symposium is being sponsored the Seaboard Fisheries Institute and the DuPont Clear into the Future initiative. Co-sponsors include the Jacques Cousteau Estuarine Research Reserve. Additional co-sponsorship opportunities are available.

PLANNING PARTNERS

Seaboard Fisheries Institute
Maryland Sea Grant/University of Maryland
Virginia Sea Grant/Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Delaware Sea Grant
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
New Jersey Sea Grant
NOAA NMFS - Protected Resources Division, Northeast Regional Office
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, Philadelphia
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
University of Massachusetts

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