

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Shortnose Sturgeon *Acipenser brevirostrum*



Shortnose Sturgeon in North Carolina

SHORTNOSE

STURGEON

Acipenser brevirostrum

STATUS: Endangered

DESCRIPTION: The shortnose sturgeon is usually less than 3 feet long. It is dark above and light below. It has a wide mouth pointed downward beneath a short snout. Five rows of sharp, pointed plates along the sides of its body provide protection from predators.

DISTRIBUTION: The shortnose sturgeon lives in Atlantic Seaboard rivers from southern Canada to northeastern Florida.

HABITAT AND CHARACTERISTICS: The sturgeon inhabits the lower sections of larger rivers and coastal waters along the Atlantic coast. It may spend most of the year in brackish or salt water and move into fresh water only to spawn. The fish feeds on invertebrates (shrimp, worms, etc.) and stems and leaves of macrophytes.

*Species Distribution
from known occurrences.*

*Species may occur in
similar habitats in
other counties.*

Green counties indicate observed within 20 years. Yellow counties indicate an obscure data reference to the species in the county. Red counties indicate observed more than 20 years ago.



Map Generated Oct. 22 2003

Species Location Map based on information provided by the North Carolina [Natural Heritage](#)



Program.

For additional information regarding this Web page, contact [Mike Wicker](#), in Raleigh, NC, at mike_wicker@fws.gov

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Keywords={same keywords listed above - used for search tools}