

**From:** Cary, Richard H. <Richard.Cary@pseg.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 6:19 PM  
**To:** nmfs.gar.incidental-take@noaa.gov; EndangeredSpecies Resource  
**Cc:** Corbett, Heather [DEP]; Fehring, Shana [DEP]; Neilan, Brian [DEP]  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Salem Generating Station - Incidental Take Report: Sturgeon 5/11/2023  
**Attachments:** Sturgeon Incidental Take Report for 05-11-2023.pdf

Attached are the Incidental Take Report and Data Collection Forms for a deceased Atlantic sturgeon collected on 5/11/2023 from the Salem Generating Station cooling water intake trash bars. The deceased specimen is being held for study pending direction from NOAA/NMFS. This incidental take is authorized under Biological Opinion GAR-2020-02842.

Thanks, and please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Richard Cary  
Environmental Compliance & Program Manager  
PSEG Nuclear Environmental Affairs  
856-339-1487

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**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Salem Generating Station - Incidental Take Report Sturgeon  
5112023  
**Sent Date:** 5/11/2023 6:19:22 PM  
**Received Date:** 5/11/2023 6:19:37 PM  
**From:** Cary, Richard H.

**Created By:** Richard.Cary@pseg.com

**Recipients:**

"Corbett, Heather [DEP]" <Heather.Corbett@dep.nj.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Fehring, Shana [DEP]" <Shana.Fehring@dep.nj.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Neilan, Brian [DEP]" <Brian.Neilan@dep.nj.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"nmfs.gar.incidental-take@noaa.gov" <nmfs.gar.incidental-take@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"EndangeredSpecies Resource" <EndangeredSpecies.Resource@nrc.gov>  
Tracking Status: None

**Post Office:** pseg.com

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	1206	5/11/2023 6:19:37 PM
Sturgeon Incidental Take Report for 05-11-2023.pdf		416225

**Options**

**Priority:** Normal  
**Return Notification:** No  
**Reply Requested:** No  
**Sensitivity:** Normal  
**Expiration Date:**

## Appendix C, Part 2A (Sturgeon)

*Photographs should be taken and the following information should be collected from all sturgeon (alive and dead). Please submit all necropsy results (including sex and stomach contents) to NMFS upon receipt. You must also complete and submit the "Sturgeon Data Collection Form"*

Observer's full name: Matthew Mcqueston (Environmental Consulting Services, Inc. [ECSI])

Reporter's full name: Matthew Mcqueston

Species Identification : Atlantic sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus)

Site of Collection: PSEG Salem Generating Station; SGS Unit 2, Intake 21A

Date animal observed: 05/11/2023 Time animal observed: 10:30 AM

Date animal collected: 05/11/2023 Time animal collected: 10:30 AM

Environmental conditions at time of observation (i.e., tidal stage, weather):

Air temp. – 22.0°C; Sal. – 3.0 ppt; Wind –SW; sky – clear; Wave – slight; tide- Ebb 2 (88.0 ft.)

If removed from intakes (trash racks or traveling screens):

Date and time of last inspection of screen: 5/11/23 at 2:33AM

Water temperature (°C) at site and time of observation: 19.0 °C

Number of pumps operating at time of observation: Unit 1: 5 circulators / Unit 2: 5 circulators

Average percent of power generating capacity achieved per unit at time of observation: Unit 1: 100.8% Unit 2: 99.1%

Average percent of power generating capacity achieved per unit over the 48 hours previous to observation: Unit 1:100.2% Unit 2: 97.6%

# STURGEON DATA COLLECTION FORM

For use in documenting sturgeon injury or mortality incidental to a federal action

## OBSERVER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: First Matthew Last Mcqueston  
Agency Affiliation PSEG subcontractor Email Doug.Potts@pseg.com  
Address 100 South Cass Street, Middletown, DE 19709  
Area code/Phone number (302) 378-9881 (Environmental Consulting Services, Inc.)

SEC 7 UNIQUE IDENTIFIER (PCTS No.  
Assigned by NMFS)

## DATE REPORTED:

Month 05 Day 11 Year 2023

## DATE EXAMINED:

Month 05 Day 11 Year 2023

## SPECIES: (check one)

- ☐ shortnose sturgeon  
☒ Atlantic sturgeon  
☐ Unidentified *Acipenser* species  
Check "Unidentified" if uncertain. See reverse side of this form for aid in identification.

## LOCATION FOUND:

☐ Offshore (Atlantic or Gulf beach) ☒ Inshore (bay, river, sound, inlet, etc)  
River/Body of Water Delaware River City Lower Alloways Creek State NJ  
Descriptive location (be specific) Removed from Circulating Water Intake Structure (CWIS) trash racks, intake bay 21A, during routine trash rack cleaning at the Salem Generating Station, PSEG Nuclear LLC.  
Latitude 39.460603° (Dec. Degrees) Longitude -75.536133° (Dec. Degrees)

## CARCASS CONDITION at time examined: (check one)

- ☐ 1 = Fresh dead  
☐ 2 = Moderately decomposed  
☒ 3 = Severely decomposed  
☐ 4 = Dried carcass  
☐ 5 = Skeletal, scutes & cartilage

## SEX:

- ☒ Undetermined  
☐ Female ☐ Male  
How was sex determined?  
☐ Necropsy  
☐ Eggs/milt present when pressed  
☐ Borescope

## MEASUREMENTS:

Circle unit  
Fork length 91.4 cm  
Total length 99.1 cm  
Length ☒ actual ☐ estimate  
Mouth width (inside lips, see reverse side) 5.0 cm  
Interorbital width (see reverse side) 10.2 cm  
Weight ☒ actual ☐ estimate 5.1 kg

TAGS PRESENT? Examined for external tags including fin clips? ☒ Yes ☐ No Scanned for PIT tags? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Tag #

Tag Type

Location of tag on carcass

None found

## CARCASS DISPOSITION: (check one or more)

- ☐ 1 = Left where found  
☐ 2 = Buried  
☐ 3 = Collected for necropsy/salvage  
☒ 4 = Frozen for later examination  
☐ 5 = Other (describe).

## Carcass Necropsied?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date Necropsied: \_\_\_\_\_

Necropsy Lead: \_\_\_\_\_

## PHOTODOCUMENTATION:

Photos/video taken? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
Disposition of Photos/Video PSEG Nuclear Environmental Affairs

## SAMPLES COLLECTED? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Sample

Pelvic fin clip

How preserved

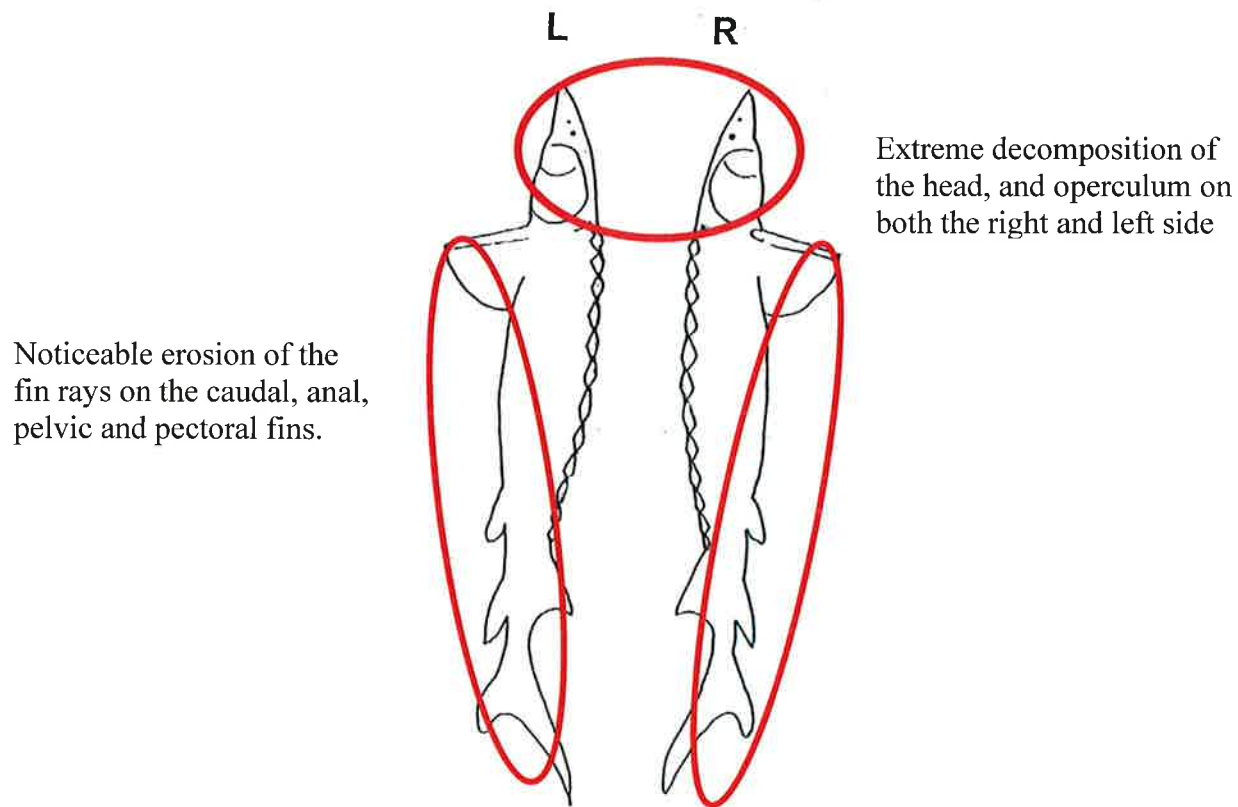
stored in non-denatured ethanol and refrigerated.

Disposition (person, affiliation, use)

Held at the office of ECSI for aggregated shipment to designated laboratory

Comments: A deceased and severely decomposed Atlantic sturgeon was collected from the Salem Circulating Water Intake Structure during routine trash rack cleaning on 05/11/2023, at approximately 10:30AM. After positive identification was made by Environmental Consulting Services personnel, the specimen was photographed and inspected for tags. No evidence of external tags was found, and no existing PIT tag was indicated. A pelvic fin clip was also collected for future DNA analysis. Upon completion of processing, the specimen was placed on ice and prepared for transport back to the ECSI main office, where it will be stored under refrigeration, awaiting direction on further disposition. The fin clip sample has been stored in refrigeration and will be held for aggregated shipment to a designated laboratory.

Draw wounds, abnormalities, tag locations on diagram and briefly describe below



Describe any wounds / abnormalities (note tar or oil, gear or debris entanglement, propeller damage, etc.). **Please note if no wounds / abnormalities are found. At the time of inspection, the specimen was deceased and in state of severe decomposition. No specific injuries attributable to a cause of death could be identified due to the poor condition. (Refer to illustration above).**

**Submit completed forms (within 24 hours of observation of fish): by e-mail to [Incidental\\_Take@noaa.gov](mailto:Incidental_Take@noaa.gov) or by fax (978-281-9394). Questions can be directed to NMFS Protected Resources Division at 978-281-9328.**

**Data Access Policy:** Upon written request, information submitted to National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) on this form will be released to the requestor provided that the requestor credit the collector of the information and NOAA Fisheries. NOAA Fisheries will notify the collector that these data have been requested and the intent of their use.

## Photographs



A dorsal view showing the size and condition of a deceased Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), retrieved at approximately 10:30AM on 05/11/2023 from the Salem Circulating Water Intake by Salem Yard Crew personnel during routine trash rack cleaning at Salem Nuclear Generating Station (05/11/2023).



A ventral view of the specimen showing the extent of decomposition, with degraded fin rays on the caudal, anal, and pectoral fins, as well as erosion of the gills and operculum and surface tissue of the head. Neither external nor internal tags were indicated during processing (05/11/2023).



## Photographs



Dorsolateral view of the head, showing the characteristic small mouth and elongated rostrum. Severe decomposition has resulted in erosion of the surface skin on the head, and erosion of the operculum on both the right and left sides are indicated (05/11/2023).



Dorsal view of the head, showing exposed bones and missing bony plates of the skull (05/11/2023).