

From: Heun Jr, Ronald B. <Ronald.HeunJr@pseg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 9:18 AM
To: nmfs.gar.incidental-take@noaa.gov
Cc: EndangeredSpecies Resource; Dyson, Danielle [DEP];
Heather.Corbett@dep.nj.gov; Brian.Neilan@dep.nj.gov
Subject: [External_Sender] Salem Generating Station - Incidental Take Report Atlantic
Sturgeon 2/24/2025
Attachments: Sturgeon Incidental Take Report for 02-24-2025.pdf

Attached is the Incidental Take Report and Data Collection Form for a deceased Atlantic sturgeon collected on 2/24/2025 from the Salem Generating Station during routine raking of the circulating water intake trash bars. The deceased specimen is being held 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.

Ron

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Sturgeon 2242025
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From: Heun Jr, Ronald B.

Created By: Ronald.HeunJr@pseg.com

Recipients:

"EndangeredSpecies Resource" <EndangeredSpecies.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Dyson, Danielle [DEP]" <Danielle.Dyson@dep.nj.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Heather.Corbett@dep.nj.gov" <Heather.Corbett@dep.nj.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Brian.Neilan@dep.nj.gov" <Brian.Neilan@dep.nj.gov>
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MESSAGE	1325	2/25/2025 9:18:19 AM
Sturgeon Incidental Take Report for 02-24-2025.pdf		616202

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,

Reporter's full name: Matthew McQueston

Species Identification : Atlantic Sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus)

Site of Collection: PSEG Salem Generating Station, SGS Unit 1; CWI 11A

Date animal observed: 2/24/2025 Time animal observed: 09:50 AM

Date animal collected: 2/24/2025 Time animal collected: 09:55 AM

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

Air temp. - 7.0 °C; sal. - 14.0 ppt; wind -SE; sky - clear; wave - calm; tide - Ebb 1 (92.0ft)

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

Date and time of last inspection of screen: 2/24/2025 10:15

Water temperature (°C) at site and time of observation: 1.5 °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- 99.6%/Unit 2 - 100.0%

Average percent of power generating capacity achieved per unit over the 48 hours previous to observation: Unit 1 - 99.9%/Unit 2 - 99.8%

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 **Matthew.McQueston@pseg.com**
Address **100 South Cass Street, Middletown, DE 19709**
Area code/Phone number **(302) 378-9881**

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

DATE REPORTED:

Month 02 Day 24 Year 2025

DATE EXAMINED:

Month 02 Day 24 Year 2025

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 Hancocks Bridge State NJ**

Descriptive location (be specific) **Removed from Circulating Water Intake Structure (CWIS) intake trash racks, intake bay 11A, 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 **71.0 cm**

Total length **76.0 cm**

Length ☒ actual ☐ estimate

Mouth width (inside lips, see reverse side) **8.9 cm**

Interorbital width (see reverse side) **9.9 cm**

Weight ☒ actual ☐ estimate **2.9 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 personnel.**

SAMPLES COLLECTED? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Sample

How preserved

Disposition (person, affiliation, use)

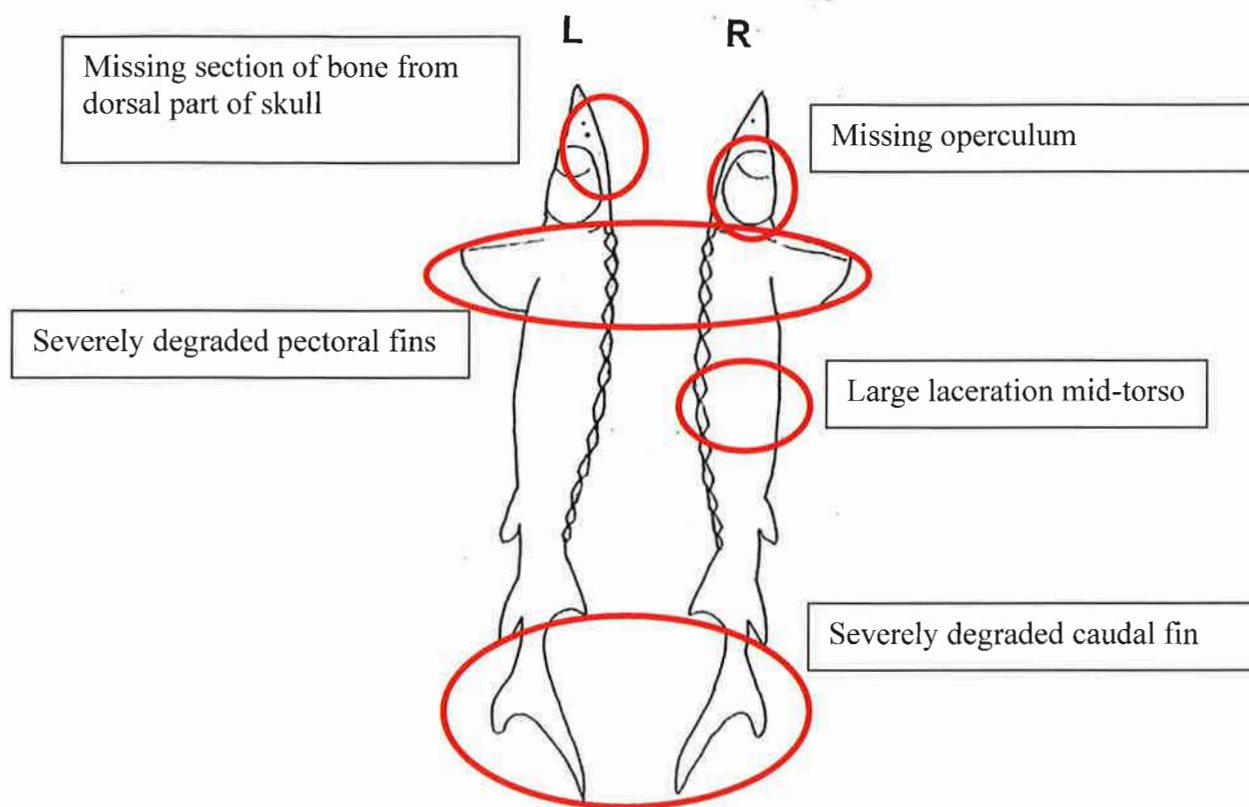
Pelvic fin clip

stored in non-denatured ethanol and then refrigerated.

Held at the Office of ECSI; waiting for further instruction on disposition.

Comments: A deceased and severely decomposed Atlantic sturgeon was retrieved from outside the Salem Circulating Water Intake Structure during routine trash rack cleaning on 02/24/25, at approximately 09:55 AM. After positive identification was made by Environmental Consulting Services personnel, the specimen was measured, photographed, and inspected for tags. No evidence of external tags was found, and no existing PIT tag was indicated. A pelvic fin clip was collected for future DNA analysis. Upon completion of processing, the specimen was placed on ice and transported off-site to the ECSI main office, where it will be stored under refrigeration, awaiting direction on further disposition. The fin clip sample has been placed in cold storage 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 collection, the specimen was in very poor condition, exhibiting evidence of severe decomposition. Observed damage included a missing operculum on the right side, severely degraded pectoral and caudal fins, and evidence of a large laceration on the right side, mid torso. Additionally, surface skin was missing from the head, and missing bone from the dorsal portion of the skull, located between the eyes, was observed.

Submit completed forms (within 24 hours of observation of fish): by e-mail to IncidentalTake@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 09:55 AM on 02/24/2025 from the Salem Circulating Water Intake by Salem Yard Crew personnel, during routine trash rack cleaning at Salem Nuclear Generating Station (02/24/2025).



A ventral view of the specimen, showing the overall condition. In addition to a severe laceration located mid-torso, and missing operculum on the right side, the specimen also shown evidence of severe decomposition, indicated by missing skin on the head and degraded pectoral and caudal fins (02/24/2025).

Photographs



View showing the location of a large laceration to the mid torso, exposing internal tissue (02/24/2025).



A dorsolateral view of the right side of the head, showing missing operculum (02/24/2025).

Photographs



A dorsal view of the head, showing a large section of missing bone from the top of the skull (02/24/2025).



A dorsolateral view of the head, showing the lack of surface skin, as well as the section of missing bone on the dorsal surface of the skull (02/24/2025).

Photographs



Specimen revealed the effects of severe decomposition, as indicated in the photo by the degraded condition of the caudal fin (02/24/2025).



A ventral view of the head, showing the characteristic elongated rostrum and small mouth (02/24/2025).