

Abundance of Juvenile Atlantic sturgeon in the Hudson River Estuary.

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Atlantic sturgeon were the most important commercial fish species in NY at the turn of the 20th century. Very high catches in the late 1880s collapsed the stock and fishing remained low until the 1980s and 1990s when an upsurge in harvest began. NY State closed the fishery in 1996 due to excessive harvest and efforts turned toward stock recovery. Research and management has been happening in the Hudson for hundreds of years but in 2003 design of a directed sampling program for juvenile Atlantic sturgeon began (Sweka et al 2007). Since 2006 we have used the designed survey to measure the abundance of juvenile Atlantic sturgeon in Haverstraw Bay (rkm 55-65). Catches vary with environmental conditions and models are used to show the relationship between catches, distance to salt front and temperature.