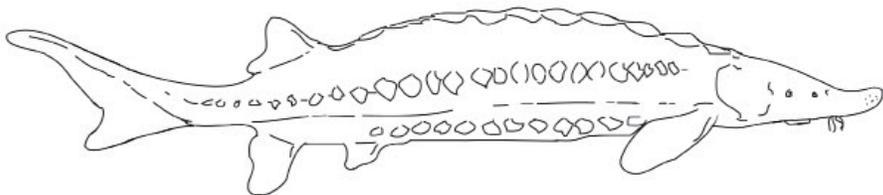




# Atlantic & Shortnose Sturgeon



## ESA Listed Species



Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon are protected

If you incidentally catch an Atlantic or shortnose sturgeon which is responsive and lively, return the fish to the water immediately. However:

- If the fish is nonresponsive and **you have a trained fishery biologist on board**, it is important that they try to resuscitate the fish

Atlantic or shortnose sturgeon that have appeared non-responsive, have been successfully resuscitated after being placed in oxygenated water or set up with a hose of water running out and over the gills for at least 30 minutes.

For a complete description of the prohibitions and exemptions for Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, call NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Region Protected Resources Division at 978-281-9328, or visit the sturgeon websites at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/atlantic-sturgeon> and <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/shortnose-sturgeon>.

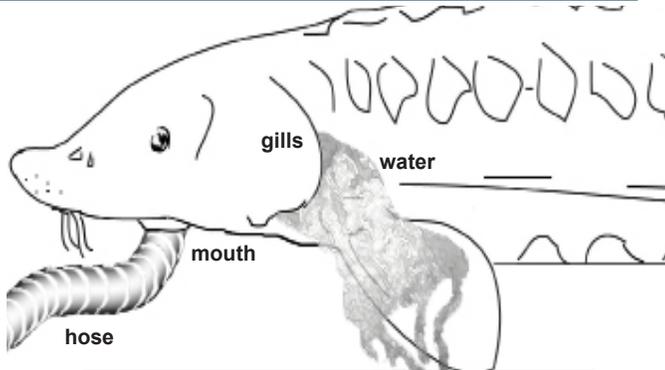


# Atlantic & Shortnose Sturgeon

## ESA Listed Species



Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon removed from gear may be nonresponsive. It is often possible to resuscitate these fish by flushing water, over the gills until recovery is obvious. The most effective way to resuscitate fish is through the mouth, as if the fish were swimming forward.



Hose inserted up through mouth and to the side to allow water to flow over gills.

### Resuscitation with a Hose (for trained fishery biologists only)

- Use wet hands or wet rag and support the belly when handling.
- Use a pump and hose with water (For example: 1<sup>1/2</sup>” engine-driven wash down pump).
- Place the hose into the mouth and to the side, using a soft piece of sponge/cloth to keep the metal/hard plastic from injuring the inside of the fish’s mouth.
- Use enough water pressure to gently flush water over gills. Heavy water pressure can harm the fish.
- Make sure water is running out and over the gills and NOT down the throat into the digestive tract.

Resuscitation should be attempted on all nonresponsive fish for at least 30 minutes. If the fish remains nonresponsive after 30 minutes, the fish should be considered dead and the carcass returned to the water.

For a complete description of the prohibitions and exemptions for Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, call NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Region Protected Resources Division at 978-281-9328, or visit the sturgeon websites at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/atlantic-sturgeon> and <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/shortnose-sturgeon>.