

Sturgeon

Historically, the Delaware Estuary has been an important habitat for two species of sturgeon: the shortnose sturgeon, and its cousin, the Atlantic sturgeon. Atlantic sturgeon primarily live in the ocean, and migrate through the estuary to spawn in freshwater. Shortnose sturgeon spend most of their time in the brackish water of the estuary, moving upstream to fresher water to spawn.

Over the duration of the Delaware River seine survey, only one sturgeon has ever been caught. In August 2004, a shortnose sturgeon was caught during a haul at the Oldman's Point station just down river from the Commodore Barry Bridge. The young-of-year sturgeon measured only 4.6-inches.



With improving water quality, fishing limitations and continued surveying, sturgeon populations will continue to grow in the Delaware River, and possibly one day return to the numbers that they were over a century ago.

For more information about shortnose sturgeon, please read the species profile in our 2005 marine digest:

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2005/digmar16-27.pdf>