



Fish Finders - Lesson 3: Activity Sturgeon

Data sheet (Key)

Use what you know about lake sturgeon to answer the following questions.

1. How big are adult lake sturgeon? Length? Weight?

Adult lake sturgeon can grow to more than six feet long and can weigh 200 pounds.

2. How long do lake sturgeon live?

Males live an average of 55 years, while females can live up to 80-150 years.

3. How often do female lake sturgeon reproduce?

Female lake sturgeon reproduce once every four years.

4. What are the lake sturgeon's basic needs? What do lake sturgeon (and most fish) need to survive?

Water/oxygen, food, habitat/shelter.

5. Why did lake sturgeon numbers decline in the Detroit River after the late 1800s?

Lake sturgeon numbers declined due to pollution, over-harvesting and loss of spawning habitat.

6. Where do lake sturgeon spawn?

Lake sturgeon spawn on rocky areas in areas with high water current speeds.

7. How did humans change lake sturgeon spawning habitat in the Detroit river?

Lake sturgeon spawning habitat (areas of rocky river bottom) was destroyed as shipping channels were dredged and human activities caused sedimentation in the river.

8. Why is access to spawning habitat so important to lake sturgeon populations?

Unless sturgeon have access to spawn on rocky river bottoms, their eggs will be dislodged from the river bottom by water currents and eaten by predators.