



Martin O'Malley, Governor
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ATTENTION MARYLAND & POTOMAC RIVER WATERMEN

REWARD FOR ATLANTIC STURGEON

The reward program for sturgeon is ongoing and will continue as long as funds are available for monetary rewards. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) & Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are offering monetary rewards for Atlantic sturgeon captured in Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The reward program will operate from October 1 through May 31.

There is one new change to the program. Beginning December 1, 2007 we will offer a reward of \$250.00 for sturgeon measuring greater than or equal to six feet in total length as measured by FWS or DNR biologists. These fish must be alive and in good condition when we come to check them. Please make every attempt to transport these fish in appropriate transport tanks. This reward will be offered on a limited number of fish.

You must now contact U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 1-800-448-8322 to obtain a confirmation number prior to transporting any sturgeon. If the capture is outside of normal business hours (7:30-4:00 Monday-Friday), an alternative contact number will be provided to the caller. Do not transport any sturgeon without a confirmation number.

We are offering **\$50.00** for a live sturgeon measuring less than six feet in total length. **YOU WILL NOT GET PAID IF THE STURGEON IS NOT ALIVE WHEN WE COME TO CHECK IT.**

We would request that you do everything possible to keep sturgeon alive while transporting and holding them at the dock. For transporting the sturgeon, try to keep the sturgeon in a large holding tank filled with water. Frequent water exchanges in the holding tank will ensure that there is sufficient oxygen for the sturgeon. When water temperatures are below 80°F, sturgeon should not be held on board for more than 2 hours. If water temperature exceeds 80°F, sturgeon should not be held on board for more than 30 minutes. When holding the sturgeon at the dock, the two best methods are placing the sturgeon in a net pen or hoop net to allow movement or tying a rope around the tail, also allowing for movement by the sturgeon. **REMEMBER: YOU WILL NOT GET PAID IF THE STURGEON IS NOT ALIVE WHEN WE COME TO CHECK IT.**

Captured sturgeon will be tagged and released to learn more about their migratory patterns. Tissue samples from wild sturgeon will be taken to determine genetic stocks. In addition, methods are being developed for hatchery production that can be used if further restoration efforts are needed.

We offer these modest rewards to encourage your participation, but knowing that you are helping restore sturgeon to the Chesapeake Bay is a far greater reward.