



Advice On Handling Large Lake Sturgeon



General Guidelines:

- Use tackle strong enough to land fish relatively quickly, to minimize stress on the fish
- Use an appropriately-sized landing net to aid in catching the fish
- Avoid removing fish from the water for very long
- Some fish are just too big to safely bring into your boat. Release them without bringing them into the boat when possible
- Consider placing a measuring device on the side (outside) of your boat to get a quick measurement before releasing the fish so you do not have to remove it from the water

Guidelines for handling fish for photos:

- Always support the fish horizontally. **Do Not** hold sturgeon in a vertical position by their head, gills, or tails, even for taking pictures
- Before you bring a big fish into your boat, make sure fishing rods, tackle boxes, and other loose objects are out of the way
- Never touch their eyes or gills
- Minimize their time out of the water
- And remember, some fish are just too big to safely bring into your boat**



For more information contact:

Baudette Area Fisheries Office
204 Main Street East
Baudette, MN 56623
tel. 218-634-2522
e-mail. baudette.fisheries@state.mn.us
web page. <http://www.mndnr.gov/areas/fisheries/baudette>

To report a tagged fish online. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/tagged_fish_reporting/index.html



Being Prepared to Fish for Sturgeon



Recommended Equipment:

All anglers:

- Tackle that is suitable for landing a fish that weighs 100 pounds or more
- A boat anchor that will hold your boat in strong river currents
- Camera
- Large landing net
- Gloves, especially for handling small sturgeon that have razor-sharp projections (scutes)
- Pliers to remove hooks from fish. Sturgeon are almost always hooked in the mouth.
- Device to accurately measure the length of a long fish. We see fish over 80 inches long.
- Device, such as a seamstress tape, to measure maximum girth used to estimate weight of fish
- A pen or pencil and a pad of paper to record numbers from tagged fish that you catch. Several thousand Rainy River/Lake of the Woods sturgeon have been tagged by the Minnesota DNR.

Additional items for anglers that intend to harvest a lake sturgeon:

- Purchase a harvest tag before going fishing. Make sure to bring the tag with you.
- Means to validate the harvest tag once you harvest a fish.
- Means to properly attach the harvest tag to the fish. A plastic "zip tie" works well to attach the tag. The tag must be attached to the narrow part of the body, in front of the tail fin, .
- Cooler (with ice) large enough to hold a legal-sized sturgeon. Lake sturgeon must be transported intact (gills and internal organs may be removed).
- A pen to record information needed to fill out your sturgeon registration slip. You will receive your registration slip when you purchase a harvest tag (it is printed along with your tag).
- Stamped envelope in which to mail your sturgeon registration slip to the Minnesota DNR.

Measuring a lake sturgeon

In Minnesota, the accepted method to measure fish is to its "maximum total length." Practically speaking, this is the longest length you can attain when measuring the fish on a flat surface.



Measuring maximum total length of a lake sturgeon



Example of a 45.5 inch long lake sturgeon