

Advice On Handling Large Lake Sturgeon

General Guidelines:

- Use tackle strong enough to land fish relatively quickly, to minimize exhaustion
- Try to avoid removing fish from the water
- Use appropriately sized landing net to aid in catching the fish
- Some fish are just too big to safely bring into your boat. Release them without bringing them into the boat
- 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
- Some fish are just too big to safely bring into your boat



Being Prepared to Fish for Sturgeon

Recommended Equipment:

- Use tackle that is suitable for landing a fish that weighs 100 pounds, or more
- 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.
- A wet towel to place over the fish's head when measuring. This helps calm the fish.
- Device, such as a seamstress tape, to measure maximum girth for weight estimation
- A pen or pencil and a pad of paper to record numbers from tagged fish that you catch

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 properly attach the harvest tag to the fish. A plastic "zip tie" works well to attach.
- Means to validate the harvest tag once you harvest a fish.
- Cooler (with ice) large enough to hold a legal-sized sturgeon
- A pen to record information needed to fill out your sturgeon registration slip. You will receive your registration slip when you purchase your harvest tag (it is printed along with your tag).
- Stamped envelope in which to mail your sturgeon registration slip

Measuring a lake sturgeon

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

