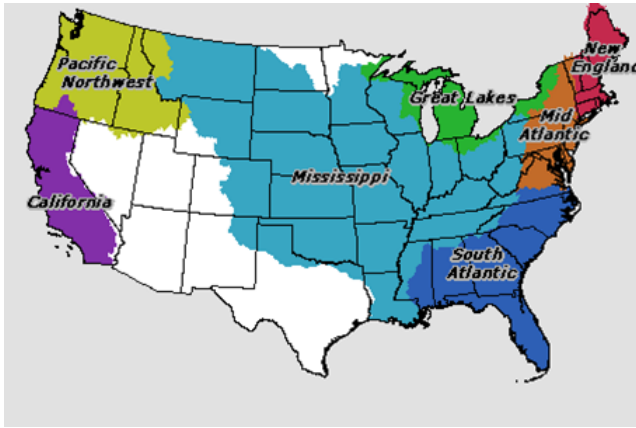


Sturgeon Interest Group



Major hydrologic regions of the United States with confirmed sturgeon and paddlefish populations.

Background and Key Research Questions

Ten species of sturgeon and paddlefish maintain a wide distribution across North America. They are found throughout the majority of lacustrine and riverine systems and most of the major hydrologically fed systems of the United States and Canada. Many sturgeons are federally listed as endangered, threatened, species of concern or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In addition, most of the sturgeon species are also state listed.

Sturgeon are long lived, grow slowly, mature late and although they may spawn multiple times most do not spawn annually. These life history characteristics make sturgeons particularly vulnerable to human influences and the effects from any recovery efforts are slow to progress. The distribution of an individual species within a given system appears to be directly related to their migratory strategy. Sturgeon require a variety of habitats throughout their complicated life histories, with all spawning exclusively in fresh water and some species migrating between fresh, brackish and marine environments. Sturgeon numbers have declined because of historical overfishing, altered water temperatures, turbidity, changes in hydrograph, the destruction of their spawning, feeding and overwintering habitats, and migratory impediments.

The Sturgeon Interest Group will bring participants together to:

- Network with peer companies dealing with sturgeon population issues
- Circulate emerging technical and management information
- Forecast and plan for compliance issues
- Identify opportunities for collaborative activities

Benefits

The Sturgeon Interest Group will serve as a forum for the electric power industry to exchange information related to protection of these species from impacts by electric generating facilities. It will enable networking opportunities to share emerging technical and management information and forecast and plan for compliance issues.

Project Summary

Project participants will receive a quarterly newsletter identifying recent and upcoming technical publications, meetings and regulatory developments related to sturgeon protection and management. A workshop and quarterly webcasts will facilitate exchange of information among project participants.

Specific technical issues that will be monitored and reviewed include:

- Migration information
- Population trends
- Upstream and downstream passage
- Critical habitat criteria
- Habitat enhancement projects

Management and policy information that will be monitored and reviewed include:

- Endangered Species Listings & Petitions
- FERC licensing requirements
- Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf States Fisheries Commission Actions
- Canada Natural Resource Operations Actions
- Fishing regulations
- Fish & Wildlife Service actions
- National Marine Fisheries actions
- State management plans

Deliverables

Interest group members will have the opportunity to exchange information through:

- Quarterly webcasts and conference calls
- Quarterly newsletters
- Annual workshop (technical and management updates, invited speaker presentations, roundtable issue discussions)
- Other digital communications

Price of Project

The price for participation in this project is \$15,000 per year. Companies that fund any EPRI program can use tailored collaboration (TC) funds or Self Directed Funds (SDF).

Project Status and Schedule

The Sturgeon Interest Group began operation in 2011. It will be subject to annual renewal assuming ongoing participant interest.

Who Should Join

Power Companies with one or more facilities within the geographic range of these species should consider joining.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center at 800.313.3774 (askepri@epri.com).

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