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**2012 Quiet Water Symposium presentation:**

Ecology and status of a Michigan living fossil: lake sturgeon in coupled Great Lakes-tributary ecosystems

Abstract

Lake sturgeon are found in many large rivers and lakes throughout North America. Populations in and around Michigan, which is in the center of the species historic range were estimated to number in the hundreds of thousands. Since the mid-nineteenth century, dam construction, over-harvest, and habitat degradation have resulted in large-scale declines in number and distribution. Populations presently are believed to be at 1% of their former size. Lake sturgeon exhibit many interesting behaviors and ecological features. This presentation will highlight in photos and video, information collected by researchers from Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources during a decade of exploration of Great Lakes and river habitats, highlighting many interesting features of lake sturgeon, the largest and perhaps the oldest of our Great Lakes fish.