

## Endangered Species Act Essay

The white sturgeon are fish that inhabit the Snake River along with other rivers that flow in Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, and Canada. These fish can grow up to twenty feet long in certain conditions. I have had the pleasure to catch one sturgeon in nature.

These fish have spine-like bones sticking out of their backs. They eat things like dead fish, worms, water insects, and snails, off the bottom of rivers. The sheer size of the sturgeon helps protect them from predators. However, water temperature can kill sturgeon. In the Snake River you are not allowed to pull a sturgeon out of the water. The reason for this is sturgeon die when they are pulled out of the water for very long and it insures that people will not keep them.

Sturgeon are threatened in Idaho due to dams. The dams altered the spawning grounds of the sturgeon, and messed up the egg incubation. Sturgeon spawn in June, between spring and summer. They spawn when they are fifteen to thirty years old. The white sturgeon continues to grow their whole life, unlike most fish. Because they grow their whole lives, they reach incredible lengths, giving them the title of the largest freshwater fish in the world. They have a small mouth on the bottom of their heads so they can eat food off the bottom of the river. Due to the fact that they are bottom feeders there are regulations on how you fish for them. There are snags and rocks on the bottom of the river that could tangle in the fishing line as you reel in a fish, trapping the fish to the snag. You need a weight that slides up and down the line freely instead of a weight fixed to the line. Barbless hooks are also required, for multiple reasons. The first being the

soft mouths of the fish; a barbed hook could tear or hurt the mouths of the sturgeon.

Also if the fish gets stuck with the line the hook will fall out on its own, as soon as the tension is released. Having proper gear is important for the white sturgeon, because it helps make sturgeon fishing safe for the sturgeon. I went to a private sturgeon pond in Parma Idaho, and I caught over twenty white sturgeon. A pond is different from a river, however I had the pleasure of holding and examining fish from a couple feet long to over five feet long. Each of the fish I caught was different from the last. Each fish had a particularly strong dark and boney body on top. On the bottom of the fish is a soft and white belly. Sturgeon are one of my favorite animals, they are both unique from each other and other species.

The White Sturgeon are amazing, massive, and unique creatures. I love these fish and want to see them thrive here in Idaho. As the White Sturgeon adapt to their environment, it is our job as anglers to follow regulations and be gentle while catching and releasing these beautiful fish.

## Bibliography

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