

St. Marys River Lake Sturgeon Telemetry Project



Biological Science Aid Meghan Kline holding a lake sturgeon.

Project Description:

- This project was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- The St. Marys River is a 120 km channel that connects Lake Superior to the lower Great Lakes
- 320 set line lifts were made between May 15th and August 18th
- 72 lake sturgeon were captured
- 12 lake sturgeon had a sonic telemetry tag surgically implanted
- 50 days were spent tracking between May and October

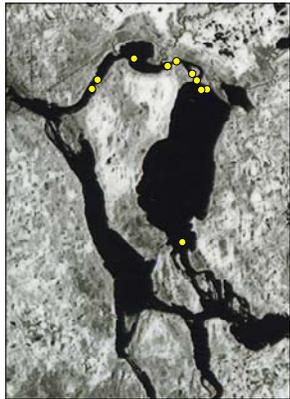


USFWS Photo

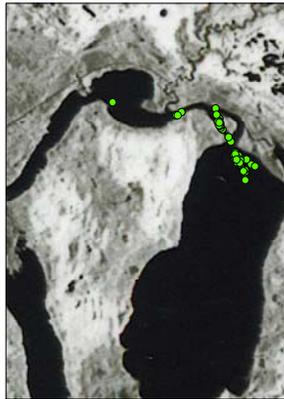
A sutured incision on the abdomen of a lake sturgeon.



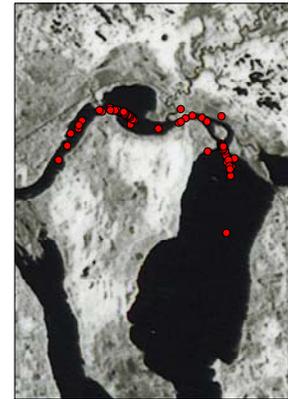
The St. Mary's River contain many channels, islands, and bays.



Capture locations of the 12 implanted lake sturgeon.



The movement of 6 lake sturgeon (Floy Tag numbers T-00050, T-00005, 10325, 10302, 10337, and 10315) between May and October.



The movement of 4 lake sturgeon (Floy Tag numbers T-00018, 10321, 10311, and 10324) between May and October.



The movement of 1 lake sturgeon (Floy Tag number 10304) between May and October. This fish moved down river over 5 miles and returned to the north channel of Squirrel Island.

Conclusions:

- Most lake sturgeon remained relatively close to the capture locations
- There were some migrations up and down river from the capture locations
- We encountered one ripe male and one ripe female
- Reproduction appears to be taking place, but where?
- We hope to identify lake sturgeon spawning habitat in subsequent years

Data collected from 12 implanted lake sturgeon

Capture Date	Sonic Tag	Floy Tag	PFT Tag	Total Length (cm)	Girth (cm)	Total Weight (kg)	Sex
5/16/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	0006	000200020006	147.7	56.3	39	Male
5/16/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	0001	000200020006	142.2	52.3	24.5	Male
6/7/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	0002	000200020006	132.0	50.1	13.0	Male
6/10/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	0002	000200020007	122	55	14.5	Male
6/10/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	T-00005	0200020007	102.1	39.9	11.4	Male
6/20/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	0006	000200020006	139.2	52.7	37	Male
6/22/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	0002	000200020006	122.1	50.6	35	Male
6/28/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	0001	000200020006	148.5	54.6	36	Male
6/28/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	0002	000200020007	148.6	56.7	38	Male
6/30/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	T-00005	0200020006	146.5	65.5	24.5	Female
7/12/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	T-00005	0200020006	135.2	54.8	12.5	Male
8/18/2006	17366 (27-6-07)	T-00005	00020006	146.7	47	20	Female

