

Amur Sturgeon Proposed Endangered Listing

Public Hearing



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
April 19, 2022

Agenda

- Meeting Ground Rules
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Presentation
- Public Comments
- Closing Remarks

GROUND RULES

1. Microphones and videos of the audience will be turned off during the presentation.
2. This presentation will be recorded and posted to the website.
3. Comments can be submitted verbally today after the presentation, or via mail or [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (further information to be provided in this presentation).
4. Comments will be limited today to 5 minutes per participant, in order to allow everyone who is on the pre-registered commenter list the opportunity to offer a comment. We ask that you be mindful and respectful of this time limit.
5. If guidelines are not followed, your microphone will be muted, and we will move to the next person.

This public hearing will offer information about the Amur sturgeon, the Service's proposal to list the species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and explain how the public can comment on this proposal. After the presentation, the public will have an opportunity to provide verbal comments on the proposal.

Participating employees of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

Elizabeth Maclin, Chief, Branch of
Delisting and Foreign Species

Demetra Panos, Biologist, Branch of
Delisting and Foreign Species

What Action is Being Proposed?

- We proposed to list the Amur sturgeon as endangered on August 25, 2021
- A Public Comment period is currently open through May 4, 2022
 - Please submit comments via the public hearing portion of this meeting, electronically online, or in writing
- A final listing rule is due August 25, 2022

Species Description



- ❖ Large fish – reaching up to 3 meters in length
- ❖ Downward-facing mouth
- ❖ Cartilaginous skeleton
- ❖ Series of bony plates in rows along their backs
- ❖ Tactile barbels hang from their mouth

Life History

Downstream
drift

3 – 14 days


Egg

~ 9 days


Larva

~35 mg

2 years (males)
9-14 years (females)

Juvenile

~3 g at
metamorphosis

Lifespan
up to 60 years

Adult

Upstream
migration

Reproduce every
3 - 4 years for up
to 60 years.



Habitat Requirements

- Primarily demersal
- Require connectivity of feeding and spawning grounds
- Juveniles feed in shallow shorelines and smaller tributaries and lakes
- Eat larval insects, small mollusks, crustaceans, and fish
- Specific flow rates and depths required for spawning
- Water temperature 12–24 °C
- Well oxygenated and unpolluted water
- Low salinity (<7.5 ppt), esp. for juveniles
- Low turbidity needed to help eggs adhere, respire



Occurrence



Threats

- Overfishing
 - Meat
 - Caviar
- Other Threats
 - Dams
 - Pollution
 - Climate Change
 - Hybridization



3-R Framework

Resiliency

- a population's ability to be self-sustaining and to withstand natural demographic and environmental variability; improved in large, connected populations.

Redundancy

having a large number of populations, which safeguards against localized, catastrophic events.

Representation

- the species' capacity to adapt to changing environments.

Current Condition: Summary

Resiliency

- No extant analysis units are in self-sustaining condition
- Only 1 (Amur Estuary) has even moderate resilience, 1 has low resilience (Lower Amur), and 1 has very low resilience (Middle Amur)
- The 4th analysis unit is extirpated (Upper Amur)

Representation

- Difficult to assess due to lack of information on genetic structure
- Contracted geographic range and thus likely lower adaptive potential

Redundancy

- Considerably reduced compared to historical level
- Endemic to single large river system
- 1 of 4 units is extirpated and 1 other on the brink of extirpation
- Extirpated from large tributaries

Amur Sturgeon Determination:

Endangered – any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

After assessing the best scientific and commercial information available, we conclude that the Amur sturgeon currently lacks sufficient resiliency, redundancy, and representation for its continued existence to be secure and determine the Amur sturgeon to be in danger of extinction throughout all of its range

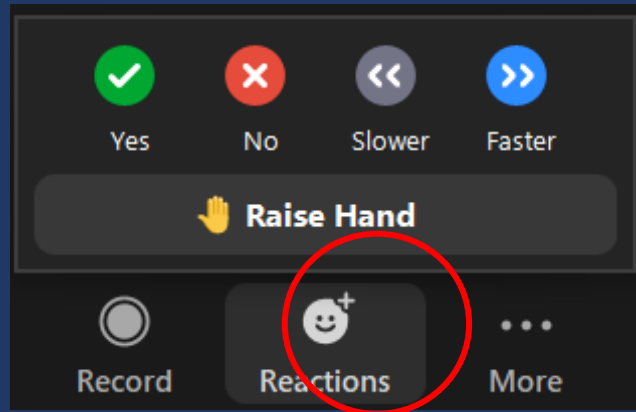
Public comment period

- Service seeks new scientific and commercial information about the Amur sturgeon
- This virtual public hearing is an opportunity for participants to comment on the proposed rule
- The comment period closes on May 4, 2022
- All documents relating to this proposed rule can be found at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2020-0100
- A copy of this presentation will also be available at: <https://www.fws.gov/event/public-hearing-proposed-listing-amur-sturgeon>

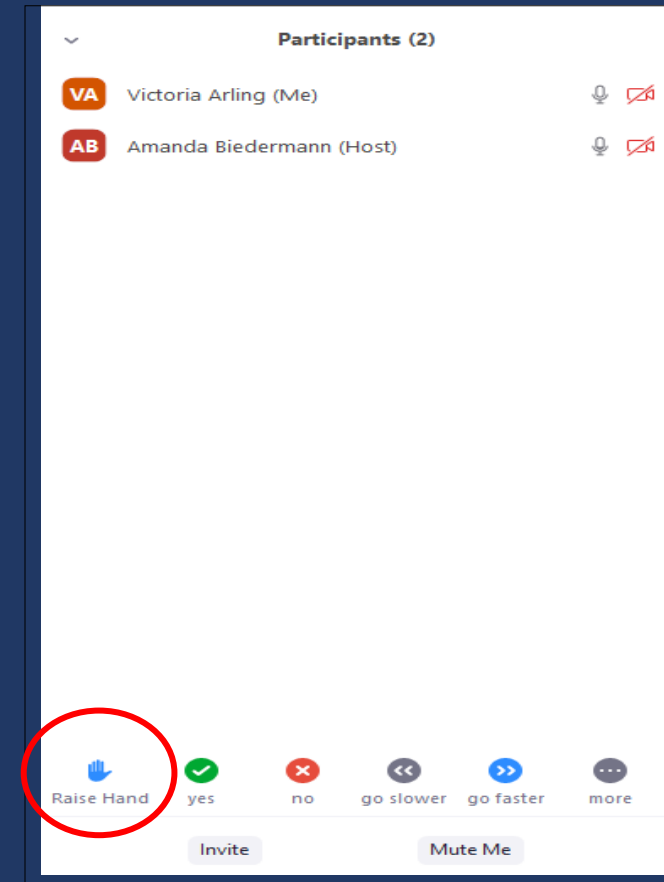
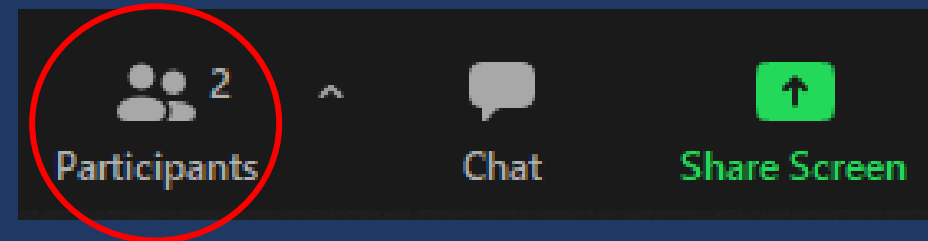
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMENTERS

- Verbal public comments will be accepted in order of registration.
- When it is your turn, the moderator will call out your name and display your name on the screen.
- To indicate that you are ready to offer your comment when the moderator reads your name, please use the “raise hand” feature at the bottom of your participants list or, if you are calling in through the phone, please press *9 to “raise your hand.”
- The moderator will then unmute you so that you can offer your comment.
- **You will have 5 minutes to offer your comment. The moderator will prompt you to finish your comment once you have reached this 5-minute limit.**
- Again, please spell out your full first and last name before you provide your comment.
- Your comment will be included in the project record.

Zoom Reactions Icon



Zoom Participants Icon



To access the raise hand feature, click on the participants list icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen, then click on the raise hand button at the bottom of your participants list. If you are calling in using your phone, press ***9** on your keypad.

*If you are unable to offer or complete your verbal public comment during the meeting today, the USFWS encourages you to submit your comment in writing through the *Federal Register*.

Current Commenter:

Next Commenter:

If you are having issues with your computer microphone, please dial in to the meeting: **Phone:** 346 248 7799;
Webinar ID: 830 6668 8709

Thank you for joining!

If you would like to offer a verbal public comment, please let us know by accessing the raise hand feature at the bottom of your participants list, in your Zoom reactions icon, or by pressing *9 on your phone keypad. You can also chat directly to Megan Stone.

The USFWS is available to accept verbal public comments until 7:30pm Eastern Time.

Written comments can also be submitted via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Search Docket Number FWS-HQ-ES-2020-0100).

Thank you!

The public hearing has now ended.

We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before
May 4, 2022

Submit by U.S. mail to:

Public Comments Processing. Attn: FWS-HQ-ES-2020-0100

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike,

Falls Church, VA 22041–3803

or via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Search Docket Number FWS-HQ-ES-2020-0100).