

## Shortnose Sturgeon

**Range:** rivers and estuaries throughout the east coast of the U.S.: CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NJ, NY, RI, SC, VA

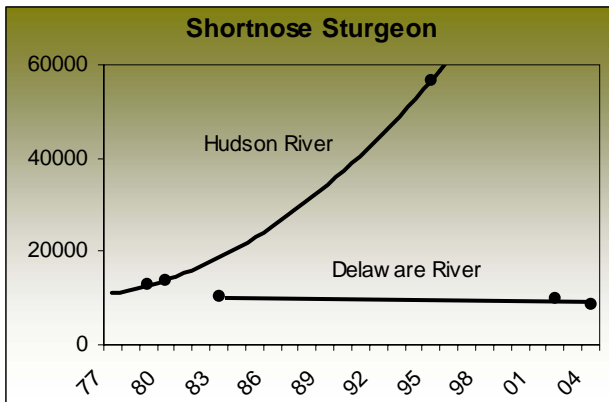
**Endangered species listing:** 1967

**Federal recovery plans:** 1998

**Status since listing:** Increased



The shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) formerly occupied rivers and estuaries along the Atlantic seaboard from New Brunswick, Canada to northern Florida. It was driven to near extinction by the 1950s or earlier due to overfishing, by-catch in the shad fishery, damming of rivers, habitat destruction, and deterioration of water quality. There are seven large populations of shortnose sturgeon: Saint John River (NB), Kennebec System (ME), Connecticut River (CT, MA), Hudson River (NY), Delaware River (DE, NJ, PA), Savannah River (SC), and Altamaha River (GA). Five of these seven increased in size, one remained stable, and one has an unknown trend. The 1987 draft federal recovery plan recommended downlisting the Connecticut, Delaware, and Hudson River populations to “threatened” and delisting the Kennebec System population as recovered.



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**Northeast Highlight:** In New York, the sturgeon is found in the Hudson River and its estuary from the Troy Dam near Albany to Manhattan. It is larger than all other populations combined, and increased dramatically from 12,669 spawning fish in 1979 to 56,708 in 1994-1995. The Lower Connecticut River population increased from 7,222 in 1977-1981 to 9,488 in 1998-2000.

