

Public meetings set for mid-February and early March to update sturgeon management plan

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OSHKOSH, Wis. - Wisconsin's oldest fish species - lake sturgeon present when dinosaurs roamed the earth - is set for an updated management plan. Sturgeon lovers can help shape that plan by attending one of eight public meetings statewide in mid-February and early-March.

"Wisconsin's sturgeon team is in the early stages of a process to update the sturgeon management plan and we want to hear from anglers and others interested in sturgeon," says Ryan Koenigs, the sturgeon biologist who leads the Department of Natural Resources sturgeon team. "These meetings provide people an opportunity to comment on the state's sturgeon management program and will set the stage for development of the plan."



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Sturgeon facts and history

Lake sturgeon are currently managed under guidance from the 2000 Lake Sturgeon Management Plan. An updated plan will allow DNR staff and partners to continue to build on the previous plan's success, set new goals, and include management strategies for both lake sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon management. It is important to note that the previous plan did not include shovelnose sturgeon.

Public meeting dates, locations and starting times are listed below:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Eau Claire**, 6:30 p.m., DNR Eau Claire Service Center, 1300 W. Clairemont Ave.;
- **Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Fitchburg**, 6:30 p.m., DNR Fitchburg Service Center, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road;
- **Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Webster**, 6:30 p.m., Larsen Family Public Library, 7401 W. Main St.;
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21 - La Crosse**, 6:30 p.m. DNR La Crosse Service Center, 3550 Mormon Coulee Road;
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21 - Oshkosh**, 6:30 p.m., Coughlin Building, Conference rooms A and B, 625 E County Road Y;
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21 - Park Falls**, 6 p.m. Public Library, 410 Division St.;
- **Tuesday, March 6 - Ashland**, 6 p.m. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, 2100 Beaser Ave.; and
- **Tuesday, March 6 - Oconto**, 6 p.m., Oconto City Hall, 1210 Main St.

There also will be future opportunities for people to comment online, and materials prepared for the meetings will be posted online as they become available.

Wisconsin has long been regarded as a national and international leader in sturgeon protection, restoration and research - a reputation built since DNR began regulating sturgeon harvest on the Winnebago system in 1903.

Wisconsin offers a hook-and-line season on multiple major rivers with healthy, growing populations and boasts the world's largest self-sustaining population of lake sturgeon. In locations where sturgeon populations are not as strong, DNR and partners are working to rebuild sturgeon populations.

For more information regarding sturgeon management, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "sturgeon."