



### Atlantic Sturgeon are Protected By Federal Law Due to their Endangered Status

## Atlantic Sturgeon Safe Handling and Release Guidelines

If you accidentally hook an Atlantic Sturgeon, take the following actions to release it with care

1. Rapidly handle the fish with care, and keep it underwater to the maximum extent possible during handling.
2. If the fish has air in its bladder, return the fish to neutral buoyancy prior to, and during, release. Gently apply pressure to the stomach of the animal by moving from the tail toward the head to release the air from the bladder.
3. Before releasing the fish, hold it underwater, and gently move the tail fin back and forth to aid water passage over the gills.
4. Release the fish when it shows signs of increased activity and is able to swim away under its own power.
5. Watch the fish to ensure it stays underwater and does not float to the surface. If it does resurface, make one additional attempt to recapture the animal and repeat steps 1-4 above.

