

Manual on

# Sturgeon

## Reproduction



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# I. Introduction

In the 1800s, sturgeon often became entangled in commercial fishing nets, and the fish were discarded as a worthless nuisance. Today, the sturgeon is recognized as one of the world's most precious commercial fish, mainly prized for its caviar, but increasingly also for its meat and as an ornamental fish.

Many sturgeon species are threatened with extinction. Aquaculture, including growing, nursing and reproduction, offers the solution for a sustainable sturgeon production. Furthermore, sturgeon culture is also considered as a business commodity with great economic potential.

The first trials in sturgeon farming were already carried out in the mid 19th century, however, sturgeon culture has undergone great development and advances during the last decades. Nowadays, some sturgeon species are already successfully being reproduced and raised in captivity.



Figure 1.

Unlike their reputation as slow growers in the wild, several species have proven to have very high growth and survival rates and to be tolerant of extremely high stocking densities in culture situations. However, there are also several challenges to the production of sturgeon. Supplies of broodstock and fry are limited. There is a long maturation period before females