

Species Conclusions Table

Date:	Project Number: NAO-2016-0080
-------	-------------------------------

Atlantic Sturgeon		May Effect, NLAA	<p>1) Hard bottom substrate (e.g., rock, cobble, gravel, limestone, boulder, etc.) in low salinity waters (i.e., 0.0 to 0.5 parts per thousand range) for settlement of fertilized eggs, refuge, growth, and development of early life stages;</p> <p>2) Aquatic habitat with a gradual downstream salinity gradient of 0.5 to 30 parts per thousand and soft substrate (e.g., sand, mud) downstream of spawning sites for juvenile foraging and physiological development;</p> <p>3) Water of appropriate depth and absent physical barriers to passage (e.g., locks, dams, reservoirs, gear, etc.) between the river mouth and spawning sites necessary to support: (1) Unimpeded movement of adults to and from spawning sites; (2) seasonal and physiologically dependent movement of juvenile Atlantic sturgeon to appropriate salinity zones within the river estuary; and (3) staging, resting, or holding of subadults or spawning condition adults. Water depths in main river channels must also be deep enough (e.g., >1.2 m) to ensure continuous flow in the main channel at all times when any sturgeon life stage would be in the river; and</p> <p>4) Water, especially in the bottom meter of the water column, with the temperature, salinity, and oxygen values that, combined, support: (1) spawning; (2) annual and interannual adult, subadult, larval, and juvenile survival; and (3) larval, juvenile, and subadult growth, development, and recruitment (e.g., 13°C to 26°C for spawning habitat and no more than 30°C for juvenile rearing habitat, and 6 mg/L dissolved oxygen for juvenile rearing habitat).</p>	<p>Silty sand bottom. Very shallow. Not likely to be used for foraging or spawning. Any sturgeon present within the dredge footprint is likely migratory. Dredging method is mechanical allowing plenty of time for sturgeon to relocate.</p>
-------------------	--	------------------	---	---

* Copyright © 2014 NatureServe, 4600 N. Fairfax Dr., 7th Floor, Arlington Virginia 22203, U.S.A. All Rights Reserved. Each document delivered from this server or web site may contain other proprietary notices and copyright information relating to that document. The following citation should be used in any published materials which reference the web site.