

Sturgeon Tagging Event

8-25-2017

~3:00 PM - dusk

As part of an ongoing Lake Sturgeon and Paddlefish Tagging project the MN DNR is seeking the help of anglers to capture Lake Sturgeon below Lock and Dam 3, near Red Wing, on the evening of Friday August 25th, 2017.

The study involves tracking 25 Lake Sturgeon and 25 Paddlefish with surgically implanted acoustic transmitters (see picture) over a 10 year period. Special receivers deployed by the MN DNR in the Mississippi, St. Croix, and Minnesota Rivers listen for the “ping” from the tags and record whenever an individual is within range. This continuous monitoring means that we get many more returns from our acoustically tagged fish (often thousands of returns per fish) versus the handful of returns we might expect from 100 fish tagged with conventional tags that require recapture by anglers.



Where will the event occur?

- We are asking anglers to focus their efforts below Lock and Dam 3.
- Boats are asked to only fish from the Y up to the Dam on the Dam side (shaded area in photo).



- We will not be collecting fish from any boats that leave this area

What will be happening?

- All boating and fishing regulations are still in place so please remember lifejackets, registrations, safety equipment etc, and obey all fishing regulations for the waters where you are fishing.
- We will have a large DNR boat set up to perform our surgeries and tag fish.
- A second smaller DNR boat will be present and will shuttle fish from the angling boats to our holding pen or surgery boat.
- Anglers should feel free to pick up a copy of this document at the Evert's Resort Bait shop when they arrive and also feel free to look for and talk to individuals in the DNR boats if there are any questions.
- When a boat hooks a Lake Sturgeon please alert DNR staff (there will be some flags available for participants) and they will get into position to transfer the fish when it is landed.
- Boats are NOT allowed to hold Lake Sturgeon longer than it takes to get measurements and photos so early alerts are critical to efficient transfers of fish.
- Once the Lake Sturgeon has been landed anglers may take measurements and photos of the fish, and then the transfer boat will come along side and the fish will be passed between boats in a large net.
- The goal for the evening is to tag 4 larger Lake Sturgeon with surgically implanted tags to supplement the 3 smaller Lake Sturgeon captured during the previous event.
- Any extra fish caught during the event will be tagged with our standard disc tags on their dorsal fins.
- If you decide to leave early please return any equipment (flags etc) that belongs to the DNR so that it can be used in future events.

Handling Big Fish

The Baudette area fisheries office on the Rainy River has put together an excellent two page guide to help prepare anglers for these unique fishing opportunities.

It can be found here: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/baudette/sturgeon_advice.pdf

Or by following this QR code:



Thanks for your help!
I will attempt to put out an event summary shortly after the event. For any additional questions I can be reached at:
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