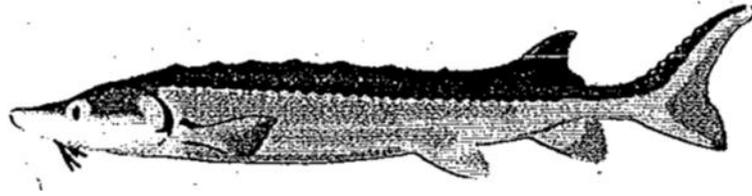


Sturgeon Guard Commonly Asked Questions



How many guards can we have on a site?

- We try to have everyone in a registered group at the same site if we have enough guards for all the active sites. There could be times that we do not have enough guards for all the sites so we may have a registered group take several sites in close proximity. If you have registered for a group we highly recommend one adult for every three youths.
- The maximum number of guards that are not in a registered group are two adults per rock pile.

How many rock piles are there to a site?

- It varies at each site.
- The rock piles are designated to a specific site. It could be a small rock pile or it could be the length of a shoreline.

Can we request a specific site?

- Yes, if the site is active and we are going to put guards at the site. Unfortunately, we would not be able to put you at the requested site if there are not active fish at the site or there are other sites that are a higher priority.

Can we have dogs at the sites?

- No, we do not allow dogs at camp or the spawning sites unless the dog is a service dog.

Can we have camp fires?

- Due to the high fire danger during the spring there are NO FIRES unless specifically authorized by the property owner; generally this does not occur.

What clothing should we bring along?

- The weather can change quickly during a shift so bring warm clothing as well as rain gear. Multi layers are better than one heavy layer. If the weather is inclement the guards are not required to sit outside at the site and most sites allow sitting in a vehicle. Tents will be available at sites that are not accessible by vehicle. Refrain from bringing your own camping equipment.

Sturgeon Guard Commonly Asked Questions

What else should I bring?

- Lawn chair
- Sun screen-AM shift
- Flashlight-PM shift
- Water/cooler
- Warm clothing-blanket/sleeping bag
- Camera
- Binoculars and bird book or other reading material
- Rubber boots- recommended during wet springs to keep your feet dry

Should I bring my cellphone?

- Yes, the primary way to communicate with the guards, sturgeon camp and the Wardens is by cellphone. If you do not have one there will be one available at camp.

What kind of meals do the guards get?

- You'll get two warm meals, breakfast and supper, at camp. There is also food at camp to make sack lunches.

How long does the spawning run last?

- The run is dependent on the water temperature. During high water years they spawn at a slightly lower temperature than in low water years.
- Once the spawning at a site starts, it will generally continue 24 hours a day until the spawn is done.
- There could be a break in the spawning activity if the weather turns colder for several days in a row and the water temperature drops significantly.
- Generally the spawning run starts in the New London area. The run will then start shortly after in the mid river area near Shiocton and both areas will have activity. The Little Wolf and the Embarrass River will begin to be active at about this time. The New London area will stop while the mid river area will continue. At approx. the peak of the mid river run the run will start in the upper river areas including the Shawano Dam. The Shawano Dam area will continue and will generally have the highest number of fish and the largest ones.

Where can the public view sturgeon?

- County Trunk X west of New London along the Sturgeon Trail.
- Bamboo Bend on the west end of Shiocton at the corner of Hwy 54 and Old Hwy 54.
- Hwy 156 on the west upstream bank.
- Shawano Dam at the end of W. Richmond St.

What do the Guards do at the site?

- The guards are supposed to be as visible as possible.
- You'll be asked questions from the public about the sturgeon and a fact sheet will be given to you at Sturgeon Camp.

Sturgeon Guard Commonly Asked Questions

- You are not to stop anyone from molesting or taking a sturgeon. We need you to be the best information gatherer possible. Contact the Warden Rover and give the information to them and they will respond to the site and follow up on the information.

What can the public do at the sites?

- Most of the sites are on private property so the public will not be there.
- At the public sites the public:
 - CAN'T go down the bank on the rocks to the water's edge. This is dangerous for them since the rocks can shift. It also will push the rocks into the water damaging the site.
 - CAN'T touch the fish at all.
 - CAN'T throw objects at the sturgeon.

Can the public fish near the spawning sites?

- Yes if they have the proper license.
- They can't attempt to catch sturgeon.
- If they catch a sturgeon by mistake they can bring the fish to the boat so they can try to remove their lure.

Can I split a shift or do a partial shift?

- It is highly recommended that when you sign up for a 12 hour shift, you have the capability to complete the shift as assigned.

Is there a minimum age for children to attend?

- There is no minimum age to attend. However, it is highly recommended to take into consideration the timeframe of a 12 hour shift and weather.
- Children (under age 18) are required to be under the supervision of an adult chaperone.

When will I find out which shifts I am assigned to?

- Approximately two weeks prior to when the run forecasted to start.
- If we have an active schedule April 1st, you will be notified around March 15th.
- We encourage volunteers to call the DNR Call Center or Sturgeon Guard Hotline for updates on the sturgeon run status.

Now that I'm signed up, what happens next?

- Depending on method used to register for your shift, you will be notified of a confirmation either by auto-confirmation (email), letter and/or phone. This confirmation will be from the sturgeon guard coordinator.
- Directions and additional guard information will be provided.

If I need lodging, what is available at Fish Camp?

Sturgeon Guard Commonly Asked Questions

- Basic bunk house style lodging is available at no cost to you before or after your sturgeon guard shift. Please bring a sleeping bag and pillow if you plan to stay.

Revised 01/29/13