



**STATE AGENCY OF MELIORATION AND
FISHERIES OF UKRAINE
STATE INSTITUTION «DNIPRO INDUSTRIAL AND
EXPERIMENTAL STURGEON FISH REPRODUCTION PLANT N.A.
ACADEMICIAN S.T. ARTIUSHCHYK»**
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Network of Aquaculture
Centres in Central-Eastern
Europe (NACEE)

The war in Ukraine has been going on for the second year already, an unprovoked full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation, which destroys Ukrainian infrastructure and the economy and kills Ukrainians.

In 2022 alone, the gross national product of Ukraine decreased by 30%. Today, active hostilities continue in the east and south of Ukraine, as a result of which the aggressor continues to destroy the commercial, social, economic and cultural spheres.

However, Ukraine confidently confronts Russian aggressors and we have no doubt of our victory!

Today, in the Kherson region as well as in a number of other regions of Ukraine, active hostilities continue and the State Institution «Dnipro Industrial and Experimental Sturgeon Fish Reproduction Plant N.A. Academician S.T. Artiushchyk» haven't bypass its consequences also.

The Plant is a non-profit institution that was established as an instrument to compensate for the loss of natural sturgeon spawning grounds, preservation of genetic diversity, restoration of the natural population in the Azov and the Black Sea basins and improvement of biotechnology and methods of commercial sturgeon cultivation. Accordingly, maintaining the natural population of sturgeons in the natural environment at the level of their natural recovery is one of the priority tasks of the Plant.

Ukraine is one of the countries that actively participate in the restoration of the sturgeon population in the world and our Plant plays a major role in this

process. The Plant with the area of 106 hectares including 68 hectares (30 ponds) of water mirror area, annually grows and stocks the reservoirs of Ukraine with juvenile sturgeon species in the amount of 1.6 million specimens. In the period from 1984 to 2022, about 65.0 million grown juveniles of sturgeon fish species were released into the waters of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Due to the work of our Plant, Ukraine ensured the recovery and preservation of sturgeon species in the Azov and the Black Sea basins.-

At the same time, as a result of systematic attacks, the Plant is actually being destroyed. Currently, the water supply system has suffered the greatest damage, the pre-spawning ponds, the larvae rearing workshop, the power supply and special heavy equipment have been destroyed. On June 6, 2023 the occupying forces of the Russian Federation committed a new large-scale act of terrorism - the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, which resulted in flooding the entire territory of the Plant, including the production and breeding areas, and the complete loss of all repair and brood stock of the sturgeon in the amount of 8.7 thousand specimens, which was kept in breeding ponds on the territory of the Plant.

Taking into account the special protection status of sturgeon fish species, the destruction of the Plant can be considered as a terrorist act of the aggressor, which will have extremely negative consequences for the ecological state and biodiversity of the entire Azov and the Black Sea regions.

Considering the above, as the Head of the Dnipro Industrial and Experimental Sturgeon Fish Reproduction Plant N.A. Academician S.T. Artiushchyk, I ask you to help with the Plant restoration!

Due to the proximity of the plant to the front line, we cannot start carrying out repair work right now but we already working on drafting a Plan of repair and restoration works, restoration of electricity and water supply, and determination of the material and technical support needed for the restoration of the Plant activities.

To implement these measures, we need informational and financial support, primarily for the restoration of destroyed and damaged infrastructure, reconstruction of the water supply system, and the purchase of the necessary special equipment.

According to preliminary calculations, the urgent minimum repair of the Plant (restoration of the water supply system – €1972.8 thousand, restoration of electrical and technical materials and equipment – €503.3 thousand, purchase of special equipment – €254.2 thousand, restoration of the incubation workshop –

€15.2 thousand) will require about €2,745.5 thousand. At least €3,500.0 thousand is required for complete restoration.

In view of the above, I'm requesting you to kindly consider the possibility of providing technical and financial support for the restoration of the State Institution «Dnipro Industrial and Experimental Sturgeon Fish Reproduction Plant N.A. Academician S.T. Artiushchyk». In turn, I inform you that I'm open to discussions of ways to implement such a format of cooperation and ready to provide any additional necessary information on the issue raised.

Sincerely,

Director



Pavlo KUTISHCHEV

This request is supported by:

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