

## NASPS News

May 2026



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### The Society's Mission Statement:

*The North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (NASPS) was founded in 2012 at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in St. Paul, MN and is the North American affiliate of the World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS). Seeking to address current declines in sturgeon and paddlefish populations across North America, NASPS is dedicated to promoting the conservation and restoration of these species by developing and advancing research pertaining to their biology, management, and utilization. Distributing scientific, cultural, and historical information related to sturgeon and paddlefish in North America and encouraging the inclusion of sturgeon and paddlefish fisheries science in college and continuing education curricula is critical to achieving these objectives. As such, NASPS recognizes the importance of engaging NASPS members, local, national, and international government organizations, educational institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the general public through publications, professional meetings, and community events.*

Not everyone who receives these listserv newsletters is a member of NASPS. Here are a few reasons why you should consider it...

Your 2026 membership contributes towards:

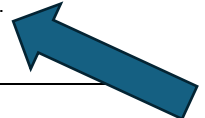
- Cultivation of a unified body focused on conservation of North American sturgeons and paddlefish,
- Student research and travel awards,
- The ability to create a professional profile on our website and seek expertise on a wide range of sturgeon related questions,
- Development of annual NASPS meetings,
- Reduction in registration fees to attend NASPS conferences,
- A 20% reduction in WSCS membership fees

You can renew at [www.nasps-sturgeon.org/about/join-us.aspx](http://www.nasps-sturgeon.org/about/join-us.aspx)

For Returning Members – You do not need to log into the member area to renew. If you have been a member in the past, you only need to pay your membership dues and do not need to fill out a profile. If you are new to NASPS, please create a member profile while paying your membership dues. Thanks in advance!

*Unsure if you have renewed your NASPS membership for 2026? Check your email inbox for an acknowledgement of your renewal.*

Memberships are on a calendar year, so please consider renewal now for 2026.



# NASPS Annual Meeting 2026

Registration for the October 18-22 NASPS 2026 meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is open.

**Register** [HERE](#).

Registration will include a welcome social on Sunday (5-8 PM), all breakfasts (Monday-Wednesday), all lunches (Monday-Wednesday), and a poster social (6:00-7:00 PM) and dinner banquet (7:00-10:00 PM) on Wednesday.

**Lodging:** A limited block of rooms will be available until September 18<sup>th</sup> for a reduced nightly rate of \$110 plus resort fee, so reserve your room now- [2026 NASPS Annual Meeting - River Spirit Casino Resort](#)

**Travel:** River Spirit provides free shuttles to/from Tulsa International Airport (TUL), so there's no need to get a rental car or rideshare. As you determine your travel itinerary, please add your details to [this worksheet](#) so we can help coordinate shuttle logistics.

**Abstracts:** The abstract submission portal is now open [HERE](#). Deadline for abstracts (poster and oral presentations) will be July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Workshop:** The meeting program will include a half-day paddlefish field trip workshop to Keystone Lake on Thursday October 22. Hands-on content will highlight paddlefish restoration aquaculture techniques, coded wire tags (insertion, extraction, and decoding), field sex identification, management strategies, and use of live sonar for recreational snagging.

## Society News, Action Items, & 2026 NASPS Election

The NASPS Governing Board is currently reviewing and revising the Constitution and Bylaws. Within the next few months, we will provide a draft to NASPS members and a vote to approve. In the meantime, if you'd like to view our guiding documents (dated October 2015), you can find them on our website [HERE](#).

Have you renewed your NASPS membership for 2026 yet? You can do so [HERE](#).

### Call for Nominations – NASPS Governing Board

Term: January 1st 2027 – December 31st 2028

NASPS will be holding elections for positions on their governing board. NASPS is seeking nominations for 10 positions including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six members at large. If you are interested in running or know someone you would like to nominate for any of these positions, please submit their name, contact information, and a short biography (<150 words) to Tim Haxton ([tjhaxton1@gmail.com](mailto:tjhaxton1@gmail.com)) by June 30th. Nominees must be a NASPS member in good standing to be included on the ballot. Candidate biographies will be distributed to NASPS members in good standing and will also be made available through the NASPS website ([www.nasps-sturgeon.org](http://www.nasps-sturgeon.org)). Voting will occur online for a period of 30 days in August/September with an option to submit your votes through email if needed. NASPS's bylaws are available from the NASPS website ([HERE](#)) for members who would like to learn more about the duties associated with each position. Alternatively, contact Jason Schooley or Tim Haxton for further information.

The newly elected NASPS governing board will be announced at the annual meeting in Tulsa, OK and will assume society duties on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

# World Sturgeon Conservation Society Updates

The WSCS General Assembly was held in Vienna in April. It was held in conjunction with a workshop focused on Macroregional Sturgeon Conservation in Europe.

Each region of WSCS identified 3 primary threats to sturgeon populations. The common threats were climate change, habitat loss, and population decline.

WSCS is offering the second student exchange grant in 2026. This will be the fourth grant offered (two per year). <https://www.wscs.info/second-call-for-wscs-student-exchange-grants/>

ISS11 is proposed to be held in 2029 in Padua, Italy. Planning is underway.

WSCS election for 2027-2031 has been announced on the website. <https://www.wscs.info/end-of-term-of-the-current-bod-and-new-elections/>

## Student Awards

Applications for student travel awards (financial assistance for meeting travel) will be open for applications during summer 2026. See website for application- <https://nasps-sturgeon.org/studentbenefits/>

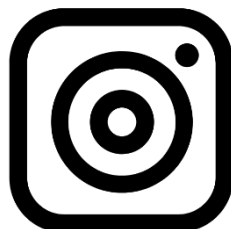
## Student & Early Career Professional Subunit

### NASPS Digital Content Portal

Reminder- the Student and Early Career Professional Subunit has developed a portal for NASPS members to submit digital content (i.e., photos and videos) for use in outreach and social media efforts. Instructions and content guidelines are included at the link to the form. Please share your content so we can highlight your work and the amazing species we study! [CLICK HERE](#)

### Follow Us on Instagram!

The subunit maintains an active Instagram presence! If you have a paper, project, person or sturgeon to highlight please let us know so that we can highlight your project!



@nasps2012

Why should you consider joining the NASPS student subunit? Check out all the benefits [HERE](#).

Interested in joining our subunit board meetings or have other ideas for us? Email us here: [naspsstudents@gmail.com](mailto:naspsstudents@gmail.com)

# Paddlefish & Sturgeon Employment / Educational Opportunities

Check out the NASPS LinkedIn account [HERE](#) to help us build a network of job-seeking sturgeon professionals.

Fishery Biologist 2 - White Sturgeon Surveys. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (Federal) <https://myjobs.adp.com/pacificstatesmarinecareers/cx/job-details?reqId=5001194132900>

Fisheries Biological Aide - Niagara Springs Hatchery IDFG. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (State) <https://idfg.idaho.gov/job/160949>

Protected Species Observer. Coastwise Consulting, Inc. (Private) <https://www.coastwise.co/>

## Post doctoral researcher USGS (Federal)

Application Deadline: 06/30/2026 Starting Date: after 7/31/2026

Location: Port St. Joe, Florida View Location

Description: The Lamont lab ([Lamont Lab USGS](#)) at the US Geological Survey's Wetland and Aquatic Research Center in Port St. Joe, FL is seeking to fill a one-year (with an expectation of at least one additional year) post-doctoral research position focused on large marine vertebrate ecology (e.g., sea turtles, elasmobranchs, sturgeon). We are seeking a highly motivated applicant with excellent data analysis and writing skills, with a primary focus on movement ecology. A PhD in ecology or a similar field and a strong record of publication in peer-reviewed literature are required.

Preferred skills include experience analyzing satellite and acoustic telemetry data, experience conducting ecosystem-level modeling, and familiarity with marine vertebrate ecology. The primary role of the post-doctoral researcher will be data analyses and manuscript writing, however opportunities to assist with (and potentially lead) research will be available.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, CV, and a list of at least three references to Dr. Margaret Lamont at [mlamont@usgs.gov](mailto:mlamont@usgs.gov). Applicants must be willing to relocate to Northwest Florida (remote applicants will not be considered). Unfortunately, we can only accept applications from U.S. Citizens. We anticipate the applicant's start date will be in July 2026 (but is somewhat flexible).

Contact Meg Lamont [mlamont@usgs.gov](mailto:mlamont@usgs.gov) (preferred contact method)

# Sturgeon & Paddlefish in the News

*Unfortunately, some of the links below may be paywalled. Such is the nature of digital media these days.*

Big fish: Utah to stock prehistoric species in two reservoirs

<https://www.deseret.com/lifestyle/2026/05/01/utah-wildlife-resources-stock-reservoirs-white-sturgeon-fishing/>

State officials investigate reports of paddlefish abuse at the Lake of the Ozarks (*Warning- article includes disturbing photos of paddlefish mutilation*) <https://krcgtv.com/news/local/state-officials-investigate-reports-of-paddlefish-abuse-at-the-lake-of-the-ozarks>

Sturgeon seen in action at Princeton, Shawano, De Pere and Peshtigo

<https://fox11online.com/news/local/sturgeon-seen-in-action-at-princeton-shawano-de-pere-and-peshtigo-bamboo-bend-fox-river-sturgeon-trail-new-london-wolf-shiocton-de-pere-wisconsin-department-natural-resources>

For the first time in a century, lake sturgeon spotted in Ozaukee County <https://www.wpr.org/news/lake-sturgeon-milwaukee-river-ozaukee-county>

Flooding throws a wrench into sturgeon spawning <https://fox11online.com/sports/outdoors/lake-sturgeon-spawning-2026-season-flooding-wolf-river-bamboo-bend-shiocton-trail-new-london-fox-princeton>

## Man sets fishing record after battling huge sturgeon in 'hour of pure chaos'

<https://www.mlive.com/news/2026/05/man-sets-fishing-record-after-battling-huge-sturgeon-in-hour-of-pure-chaos.html>

Rare leucistic paddlefish reeled in near Williston (ND) <https://www.kfyrvtv.com/2026/05/18/rare-leucistic-paddlefish-reeled-near-williston/>

Nebraska Archery Paddlefish Season Is June 1-30 <https://chadronradio.com/archery-paddlefish-season-is-june-1-30-2/>

# Recent Sturgeon and Paddlefish Papers

We encourage you to share your recent sturgeon and paddlefish publications or news articles with us for inclusion here. Please send them to [jason.schooley@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:jason.schooley@odwc.ok.gov) (Apologies for any inconsistent citation format, as these may be copied/pasted from various sources.)

- Acolas, M. et al. Predation risk in stocking programs: case study on a critically endangered diadromous species, the European sturgeon *Acipenser sturio*. *Frontiers In Marine Science* 13, (2026).
- Al Jufaili, S., Adel, M., Sakhaei, F., Conti, G. & Cristaldi, A. Trace element residues in farmed Beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*) from the Iranian markets: Human health risk assessment. *Journal Of Food Composition and Analysis* 152, (2026).
- Baker, E. et al. Lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) growth and longevity estimated from adult capture-mark-recapture data. *Journal Of Fish Biology* <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.70478> (2026)
- Barakov, R. et al. Morphological Patterns of Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus* L.) in the Zhaik-Caspian and Irtysh Basins (Central Asia, Kazakhstan): A Comparative Analysis. *FISHES* 11, (2026).
- Chen, G. et al. Sturgeon peptide LLLLE alleviates permethrin-induced obesity by modulating gut microbiota and liver transcriptome in high-fat diet-fed mice. *Food Bioscience* 79, (2026).
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- Deák, G., Matei, M., Boboc, M. & Prangate, R. A reliable method for the total extraction of DNA from sturgeon fins preserved in ethanol. *International Journal of Conservation Science* 17, 383–390 (2026).
- Ding, Y. et al. Sperm quality, reproductive hormones, and membrane-bound progesterone receptor expression in Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*). *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology B-Biochemistry & Molecular Biology* 284, (2026).
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- Gu, X., Feng, B., Li, Y. & Feng, G. Integrated LEK, eDNA, and Maxent modeling reveals habitat suitability and conservation priorities for Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*) in the East China Sea coastal waters. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 67, (2026).
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- Huang, J. et al. GT-Seq Panel Development for Species Identification and Parentage Analysis of Closely Related Hybridising *Scaphirhynchus* Sturgeons. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 26, (2026).
- Hubálek, M. et al. In vitro egg-ageing and sperm quantity in the artificial reproduction of sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*): is 'the less, the better' a good rule for avoiding ploidy abnormalities in small sturgeon species? *Aquaculture* 619, (2026).
- Hwang, S. et al. From observation to replication: Machine-learning-driven quantification and replication of fine-scale fish kinematics and behavior. *Ecological Informatics* 95, (2026).
- Ineno, T., Nakamura, R., Nakamura, H. & Kinami, R. Investigation into gonadal feminization of farmed sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus* upon oral genistein administration focused on reducing the dose, shortening the administration period, and optimizing the initiation. *Fisheries Science* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12562-026-01981-y> (2026)
- Iwaszczuk, U. & Matera, M. Fish Resource Exploitation at Tanais, Southern Russia, During the Hellenistic and Roman Periods. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* <https://doi.org/10.1002/oa.70109> (2026)
- Jiang, Q. et al. Effects of rinsing processes on the quality and frozen storage stability of sturgeon surimi sol: Physicochemical and structural characteristics. *Journal Of The Science of Food and Agriculture* <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.70697> (2026)
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- Johnson, P., Crossman, J. & Schreier, A. Identifying best practices for sibship inference with tetrasomic single nucleotide polymorphisms. *Conservation Genetics Resources* 18, (2026).
- Kim, D. Ontogenetic Phase Shifts in Metabolism and Intraspecific Scaling in a Non-Teleost Fish, the Sterlet Sturgeon (*Acipenser ruthenus*). *Hydrobiology* 4, (2025).
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- Popovic, D. et al. Unravelling the Past: Genetic Structure and Species Diversity of Ancient Sturgeon in Lake Ladoga. *Journal Of Biogeography* 53, (2026).
- Skrzypczak, P., Mazurkiewicz, J., Rawski, M. & Mashood, Z. The live fossil and nutritional novelty-effects of insect meal on growth performance, feed utilisation, fish development and trophic environmental sustainability in Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) juveniles production. *Journal Of Animal and Feed Sciences* 35, (2026).
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