



COSEWIC Assessment Summary

Assessment Summary – November 2003

Common name

White sturgeon

Scientific name

Acipenser transmontanus

Status

Endangered

Reason for designation

A long-lived species with a 30-40 year generation time and late maturity, that has suffered over a 50% decline in the last three generations. Three of six populations are in imminent threat of extirpation. Extant populations are subject to threats of habitat degradation and loss through dams, impoundments, channelization, diking and pollution. Illegal fishing (poaching) and incidental catches are also limiting. In addition, a developing commercial aquaculture industry may also impose additional genetic, health and ecological risks to wild populations.

Occurrence

British Columbia

Status history

Designated Special Concern in April 1990. Status re-examined and uplisted to Endangered in November 2003. Last assessment based on an update status report.