



Phaedra Doukakakis



Arne Ludwig

Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

49



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group (SSG) is to provide accurate information on the status of sturgeons and paddlefishes and promote their conservation and recovery.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Communications

■ Scientific meetings

i. A meeting was held with SSG representatives attending the 2017 International Sturgeon Symposium. (KSR #28)

Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

- i. Group membership was revised. New Co-Chair and Red List Authority Coordinator appointed.
- ii. Regional representation structure created and members appointed to positions.

Policy

■ Policy advice

i. We provided advice on CITES issues of importance. (KSR #26)

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (specifically Dr. Molly Webb) for assistance on North American Red List assessment. Thank you to the World Sturgeon Conservation Society for facilitating a meeting of the SSG at the International Sturgeon Symposium in 2017. Thank you to all the experts who contributed to the IUCN Red List North American sturgeon and paddlefish species assessment.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) Red List assessment update for European and Asian species; (2) Red List assessment update for North American species published.

Communications

Communication: (1) mission statement, website and portal membership list revised; (2) better internal communication and with outside groups (e.g., World Sturgeon Conservation Society, North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society); (3) strong working groups created on topics of importance (e.g., identification of management units, stock assessments, trade control and link to aquaculture); (4) at least two position papers published; (5) annual meetings held for regional representatives.

Proposal development and funding: at least two grants submitted by SSG members as a result of SSG activities.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: action plans under development for at least four of the most imperilled species.

Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: enhanced regional representation (e.g., Hungary, Bulgaria, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan).

Policy

Policy advice: (1) increased presence at CMS; (2) position Papers/INF documents for CITES meetings where sturgeon is discussed, particularly in areas of aquaculture, labelling and stock identification.



Stellate Sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*), Critically Endangered, in the Black Sea, at the mouth of St. George's arm
Photo: Tudor Ionescu



Young of the year Beluga Sturgeons (*Huso huso*) born and released in the Danube River in 2016
Photo: Radu Suci

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By 2020, we envision a SSG with enhanced capacity to contribute to the conservation of sturgeons and paddlefishes on global, regional and local scales. The SSG will have greater impact on decision-making at global meetings (CITES, CMS) and will provide expertise in the areas of conservation of wild stocks and impact of aquaculture. With an up to date Red List for all species, accurate information on the status of wild species and necessary conservation actions will be available. For the most threatened species, action plans will be under development to guide restoration and recovery efforts.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Communications (1 activity)
 - Increasing diversity of SSC (2 activities)
 - Policy (1 activity)
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Main KSRs addressed: 26, 28

KSR: Key Species Result