

NYSG is advancing education about a Threatened fish species with a new curriculum, supplemental teaching resources, workshops, and a virtual field trip opportunity

Advancing Lake Sturgeon Conservation: New Curriculum, Workshops and Virtual Field Trip

Lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) are an important native fish species in the Great Lakes, with historical, ecological, and cultural significance.

In July 2021, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) developed and released a Lake Sturgeon Intermediate Curriculum. The curriculum consists of 10 lesson plans, aligned with New York State and Next Generation Learning Standards for science, social studies, and math. Supplemental teaching resources include videos and a loan-out “Sturgeon Sack” with field equipment for community science projects, books for literacy activities, and fun items for use in developing students’ knowledge and appreciation for the unique fish. The curriculum and supplemental resources are available at no cost to educators statewide.

With the COVID-19 pandemic restricting schools’ ability to take traditional field trips, NYSG developed and led a live virtual field trip for schools in October. Students “visited” the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Oneida Lake Fish Hatchery, where lake sturgeon are reared for conservation stocking, and viewed a lake sturgeon-themed mixed media exhibit at the Burchfield Penney Art Center at SUNY Buffalo State College. The exhibit included five juvenile lake sturgeon, incubated, hatched, and raised at the Oneida Lake Fish Hatchery.

Seven schools participated in the live field trip event and seven requested access to the recording of the field trip. Fourteen teachers and educators connected more than 100 students, from fifth grade through college undergraduates, to this special learning opportunity. Thirty-five Sturgeon Sacks were distributed to 24 classroom teachers and 11 non-formal educators with environmental organizations, nature centers, museums, etc., reaching more than 1,100 youth.

Project Partners: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Oneida Lake Fish Hatchery
Burchfield Penney Art Center at SUNY Buffalo State College



NYSG Summer Teachers Workshop educators with Sturgeon Sack materials with NYSG Coastal Literacy Specialist Nate Drag (5th from left). Oneida Lake Fish Hatchery staff answer student questions during virtual trip as NYSG Great Lakes Outreach Coordinator Megan Kocher films the live event. Photos: Stacy Furgal/NYSG

NYSG’s suite of lake sturgeon conservation and education resources featuring the charismatic and threatened fish species are designed to serve as a springboard into the world of science, environmental stewardship, and STEM-based careers.

Learn more at <http://www.nyseagrant.org/glee>.

NYSG Focus Areas: Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development, Healthy NY Coastal Ecosystems.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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