

Workshop
**„Man-made Aquatic Habitats Alterations and
their Effects on Sturgeon Populations“**
to be held in conjunction with the
„19th International Congress of Zoology“,
Beijing, August 23-27, 2004

Organized by
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Aims and objectives:

The workshop intends to bring together scientists from China and Overseas, all specialized in sturgeon conservation and resource management. The link to the International Congress of Zoology is considered to offer a unique opportunity to familiarize general zoologists on species conservation needs for a highly endangered taxonomic fish group seldom considered by the zoological science community at large. The workshop also intends to create awareness for specific protection and management needs among experts dealing with other ecosystem components on which sturgeon populations depend. Further the workshop will

- (a) enhance the options for cooperation of Chinese sturgeon specialists with members of the World Sturgeon Conservation Society;
- (b) expose Chinese experts on sturgeons to an international audience that may become aware of research needs for these ancient species, thereby providing contacts to initiate cooperation in areas of mutual interest;
- (c) assist to structure scientific contributions from China in preparation of the International Sturgeon Symposium (ISS V). which will be held in 2005 in Iran.

The central focus of the workshop will be on:

- damming and diking and the effects on natural sturgeon populations in general, and more specifically on
- effects of damming on spawning migration and changes in spawning behaviour,
- effects of changes in river flows and wetland flooding on distribution of sturgeons within river systems;
- effects of changes in hydrodynamics (e.g. retention time, flow pattern) on sturgeon spawning bed conditions (e.g. egg deposition, survival of eggs, drift of larvae, etc);
- farming and release as a potential mitigation/compensation strategy to man-made negative effects on populations such as damming and diking
- genetic consequences of ranching programmes on natural populations (e.g. fitness for survival) and mitigation strategies

It is hoped that through this workshop the language barrier will be greatly overcome and opportunities created for world-wide cooperation on sturgeon conservation, cultivation and stock enhancement issues.

The Workshop will last for two days and covers four half-day sessions. So far, a total of about 20 papers have been submitted. Speakers will have 20 to 25 minutes for presentation. Some contributions will be displayed as posters. A discussion session at the end of the workshop will develop conclusions and recommendations on sturgeon research needs as well as on conservation and management strategies to preserve these valuable resources. Finally, the organizers will discuss together with the authors the potential incorporation of the material presented into the ISS5 World Conference. The outline of the Programme is given below.