

Sturgeon

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About Sturgeon:

- It is among the most endangered **fish species globally**.
- These species have been around since the **age of the dinosaurs**.
- **Distribution:** These **northern hemisphere fishes** can be found in large river systems, lakes, coastal waters and inner seas throughout Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, other European countries and North America.
- Since 1998, international trade in all species of sturgeons has been **regulated under CITES** owing to concerns over the impact of unsustainable harvesting of and illegal trade in sturgeon populations in the wild.
- **Threats:** Sturgeons are heavily **exploited globally for their roe/eggs (caviar) and meat**. This has led to a steep decline in populations worldwide.

Highlights of the report

- Of the six sturgeon species formerly native to the **Danube river**, two — the **European sturgeon** (*Acipenser sturio*) and the **ship sturgeon** (*A. nudipectus*) — are considered **locally extinct**.

- The four sturgeon species in the Danube Basin are listed as **Threatened** by the IUCN Red List.
 - The **stellate sturgeon** (A. stellatus), the **Russian sturgeon** (A. gueldenstaedtii) and **beluga** (Huso huso) are **Critically Endangered**;
 - While the **sterlet** (A. ruthenus) was recently raised to a higher threat category and has been listed as **Endangered** since 2022,”
 - The Lower Danube Basin is among the last European regions with **self-reproducing sturgeon populations**.
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Q1: What is Living Planet Report?

It is published biennially by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). It is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet.

Source: Sturgeon, among the world's most endangered fish, are being heavily poached & trafficked in the Lower Danube, their last stronghold: WWF

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/sturgeon/>

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