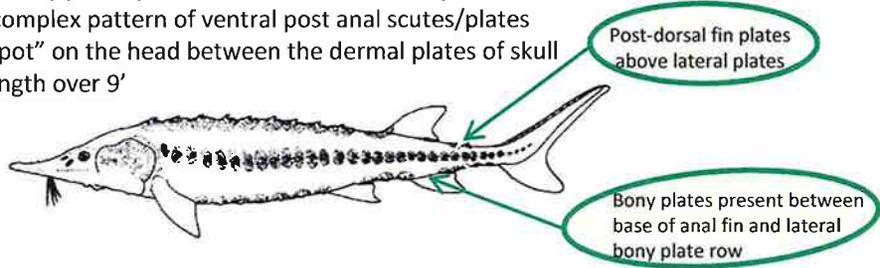


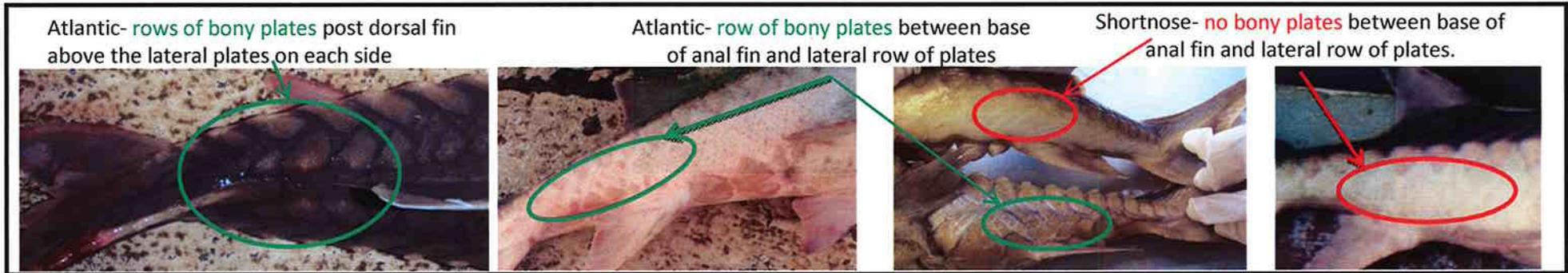
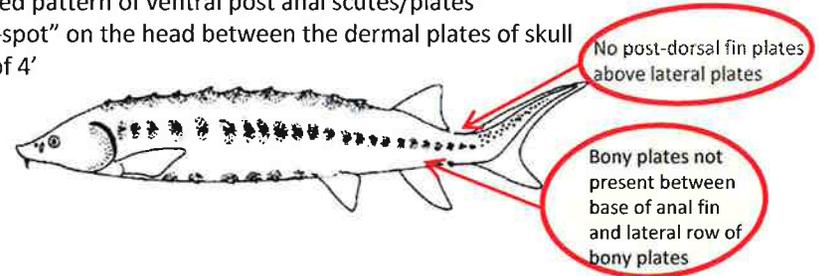
**Atlantic Sturgeon ID Characteristics:**

- Width inside lips <60% interorbital width
- 2-6 bony plates between base of anal fin and lateral row of scutes
- Row of bony plates post dorsal fin above lateral plates on each side
- More complex pattern of ventral post anal scutes/plates
- "Soft-spot" on the head between the dermal plates of skull
- Max length over 9'



**Shortnose Sturgeon ID Characteristics:**

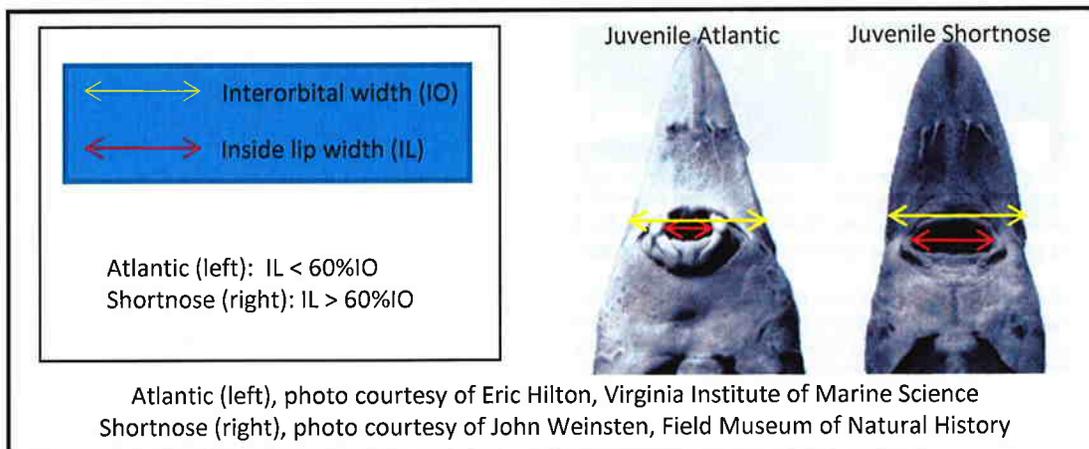
- Width inside lips >60% interorbital width
- Bony plates absent between base of anal fin and lateral row of scutes
- Lacking row of bony plates post dorsal fin above lateral plates on either side
- More simplified pattern of ventral post anal scutes/plates
- Lacking "soft-spot" on the head between the dermal plates of skull
- Max length of 4'



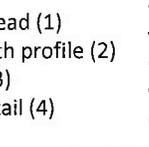
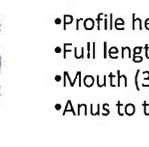
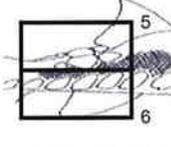
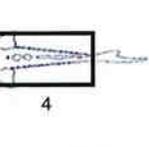
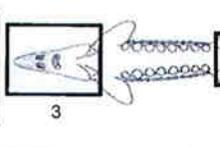
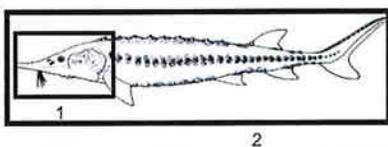
## What to do if you encounter a sturgeon:

1. **Photos** – Be sure to take the required photos of each individual sturgeon. Required photos: whole fish in profile, the underside of the head (mouth), top of head, post-dorsal fin lateral view, post-dorsal fin (dorsal view) and post-anal scutes (ventral view). Include photo slate in the photos for scale.
2. **Biosample (Atlantic sturgeon ONLY!!)** – Cut approximately a dime size piece off the top of the dorsal fin from each Atlantic sturgeon and place in a vial of DMSO. Each vial should contain a sample from ONE fish only. After the sample has been placed in the vial, make sure the cap is secure and covered with parafilm to prevent leaking. Label each vial with your TRIPID, IAL SEQUENCE NO., and HAUL NO. Be sure to WIPE YOUR KNIFE CLEAN BETWEEN SAMPLES with a clean cloth or paper towel to minimize cross contamination between the vials. Store samples at room temperature and send in with your trip.
3. **PIT Tags** – Both Atlantic and Shortnose sturgeon should be scanned for PIT tags using the same scanner used for turtles. The entire sturgeon should be scanned. Record any PIT tag numbers in the tag number field on the IAL. Please record whether or not a sturgeon was scanned regardless of the presence or absence of a PIT tag in the comments section. Remember, ALL STURGEON SHOULD BE SCANNED.
4. **IAL** – For all sturgeon obtain a measured fork length and actual weight, if possible. BE SURE TO PROVIDE ID CHARACTERISTICS IN THE COMMENTS SECTION. Additionally, if a DNA sample was taken, BIOSAMP (y/n) on the Individual Animal Log should be 1 (yes).

### Interorbital width vs. Inside lip width measurement



### Photograph these areas for ID characteristics:



- Profile head (1)
- Full length profile (2)
- Mouth (3)
- Anus to tail (4)

- Dorsal fin to tail- dorsal view (5)
- Posterior lateral/ventral view (6)
- Top of head (bony scutes)

### Shape of Snout and Head:

These characteristics can be very misleading and **should not be** used as the definitive characteristic. Atlantic sturgeon snouts become relatively more rounded and the head profile relatively more convex as the size of the animal increases

### EXAMPLE: Atlantic sturgeon head/snout variation

