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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Northeast Public Hearings Set on Proposed Listing
of Atlantic Sturgeon
Under the Endangered Species Act**

NOAA's Fisheries Service has scheduled public hearings in four East Coast cities to discuss and take comments on the agency's proposal to list three populations of Atlantic sturgeon in the Northeast under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Gulf of Maine population is proposed for listing as threatened, and endangered status is proposed for the Chesapeake Bay and New York Bight populations.

The agency is particularly interested in information and comments on abundance and distribution of these fish, viability of and threats to them, and efforts underway to protect Atlantic sturgeon belonging to these populations.

Informational sessions will be held prior to each hearing from 6:30 to 7 p.m. The hearing schedule is:

Portland, Maine

November 3, 2010 7 to 9 p.m.
Eastland Park Hotel, 157 High Street

Newport News, Virginia

November 4, 2010 7 to 9 p.m.
Point Plaza Suites at City Center, 950 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard

Stony Brook, New York

November 8, 2010 7 to 9 p.m.
SUNY Stony Brook, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, 100 Nicholls Road

Wilmington, Delaware

November 9, 2010 7 to 9 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel Wilmington Downtown, 700 North King Street

The agency is accepting written comments as well, through January 4, 2011. These can be submitted using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by fax, mail or hand delivery. For more information, please visit our website: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/atlsturgeon/

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