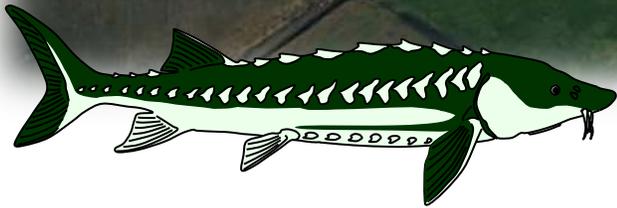


# Sturgeon in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Watershed: New insights to support conservation and management

## A Science Symposium

Free and open to the public



Tuesday, March 3, 2015  
UC Davis ARC Ballroom  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### Overview

Green and white sturgeon, two distinct species with very different life history strategies, reside in the Sacramento-San Joaquin river watersheds and pose different conservation and management challenges. Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), a more marine species, migrate in the spring to spawn in the headwaters of the Sacramento River and return to the estuary in the fall. Adults migrate out the Golden Gate and travel northward along the continental shelf to the waters off Washington state and Canada before returning to the estuary. By contrast, white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) appear to spawn exclusively in the lower Sacramento River watershed and remain within the San Francisco Estuary throughout their entire lifespan.

The goal of this day-long symposium will be to present new information about the physiology, behavior, and ecology of these two species to help guide enhanced management and conservation efforts within the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed. This symposium will identify current unknowns and highlight new electronic tracking technologies and physiological techniques to address these knowledge gaps.

- 9:00-9:10** *Welcome and Introduction*  
Rainer Hoenicke, Deputy Executive Officer, Delta Science Program
- 9:10-9:35** *An introduction to green and white sturgeon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Watershed*  
A. Peter Klimley, Adjunct Professor – University of California, Davis
- 9:35-10:00** *Long-term trends in San Francisco Estuary white sturgeon population size and its fishery*  
Marty Gingras, Fisheries Biologist – California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 10:00-10:25** *Physiological and behavioral studies of sturgeon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed – Implications for conservation and further study*  
Joseph Cech, Emeritus Professor, and Nann Fangue, Assistant Professor – University of California, Davis
- 10:25-10:45** **Break**
- 10:45-11:10** *Timing of green and white sturgeon movements in the San Francisco Bay, Delta, and Sacramento River*  
Emily Miller, Ph.D. Candidate – University of California, Davis
- 11:10-11:35** *The size and spatial distribution of SDPS adult green sturgeon in the Sacramento River compared to the Klamath and Rogue Rivers – an aggregated species vulnerable to exploitation*  
Ethan Mora, Ph.D. Candidate – University of California, Davis
- 11:35-12:00** *An overview of what we think we know about green and white sturgeon in the Feather River*  
Alicia Seesholtz, Fisheries Biologist – California Department of Water Resources
- 12:00-1:10** **Lunch**
- 1:10-1:35** *White sturgeon in the San Joaquin River – when, why, and what are we going to do about it?*  
Zachary Jackson, Fisheries Biologist – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 1:35-2:00** *Empirical and modeling studies of spawning habitat preferences in green sturgeon*  
Michael Thomas, Staff Research Associate – University of California, Davis
- 2:00-2:25** *Integrating sensory ecology and behavior with the management of juvenile green sturgeon*  
Jamilynn Poletto, Postdoctoral Researcher – University of California, Davis
- 2:25–2:50** **Break**
- 2:50-3:15** *Is recovery of green sturgeon possible?*  
David Woodbury, Green Sturgeon Recovery Coordinator – National Marine Fisheries Service
- 3:15-3:40** *An outside perspective toward the current sturgeon research in the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed*  
Ken Sulak, Research Fish Biologist – United States Geological Survey
- 3:40-5:00** **Panel Discussion:** *What biological and physical information do we need to best manage and conserve green and white sturgeon populations in the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Watershed?*  
**Panelists:** Joseph Cech (UCD), Nann Fangue (UCD), Marty Gingras (CDFW), Zachery Jackson (USFW), Emily Miller (UCD), Ethan Mora (UCD), Jamilynn Poletto (UCD), Andrea Schreier (UCD), Alicia Seesholtz (CDWR), Ken Sulak (USGS), Michael Thomas (UCD), David Woodbury (NMFS)  
**Moderator:** A. Peter Klimley (UCD)
- 5:00** *Closing Remarks*  
A. Peter Klimley (UCD)