

Sturgeon 2020

A flagship project with holistic needs

Dr. Cristina Sandu - Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF), EUSDR – PA 06
- Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy
- International Association for Danube Research (IAD)

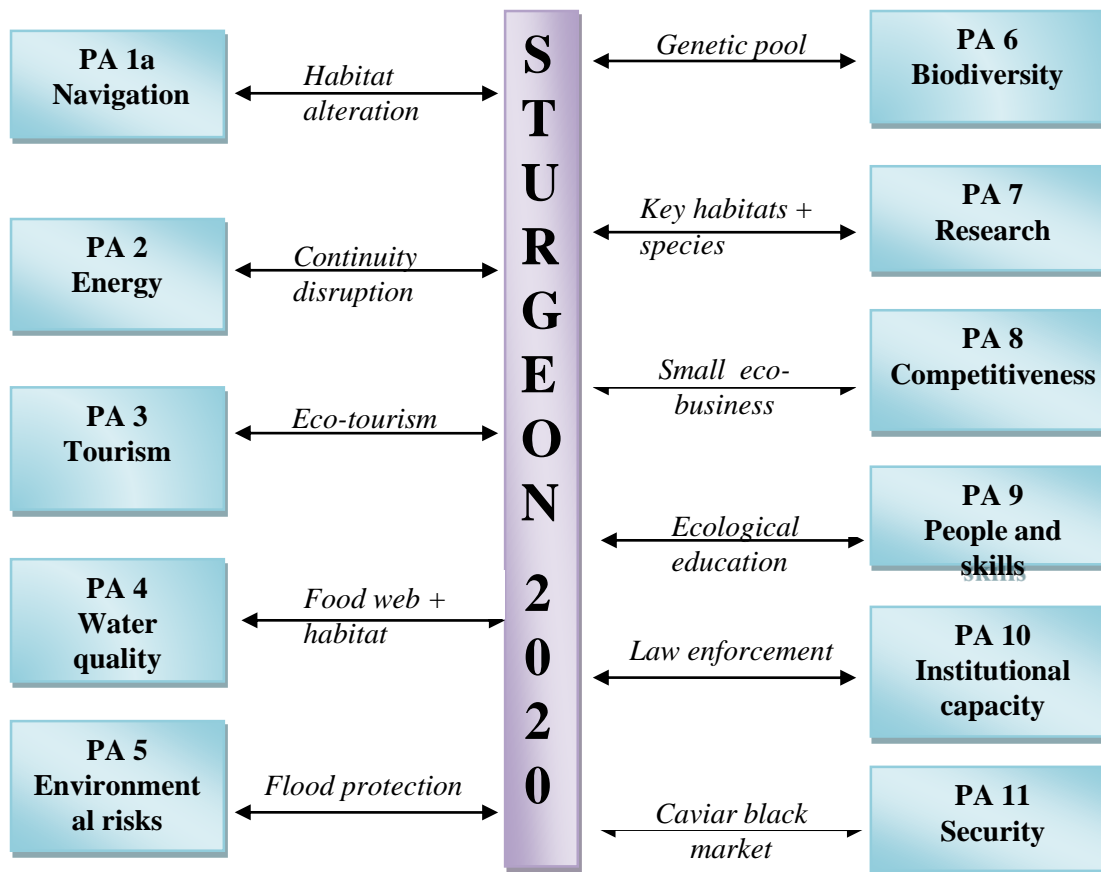
Sturgeon 2020

EUSDR PA 6 and PA 4 target: “to ensure the revival of Danube sturgeons and other indigenous fish species by 2020”

Sturgeons - flagship species of the Danube Basin



Connection with all EUSDR Priority Areas



Navigation – habitat alteration



Hydropower – migration disruption



Sturgeons need migration corridors and access to habitats



Eco-tourism

- Lower environmental footprint
- Benefits for local communities

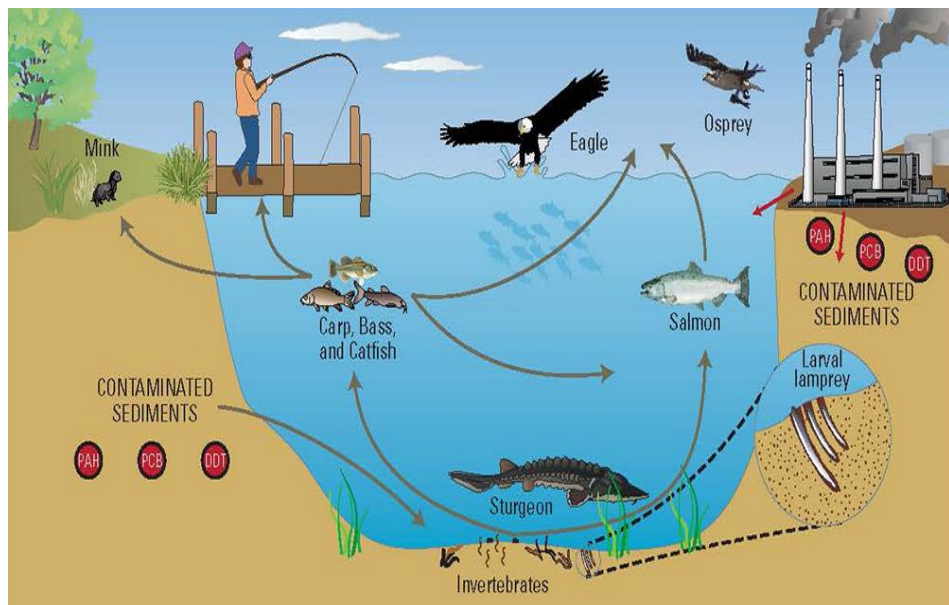


Visit of sturgeon farms Aquariums

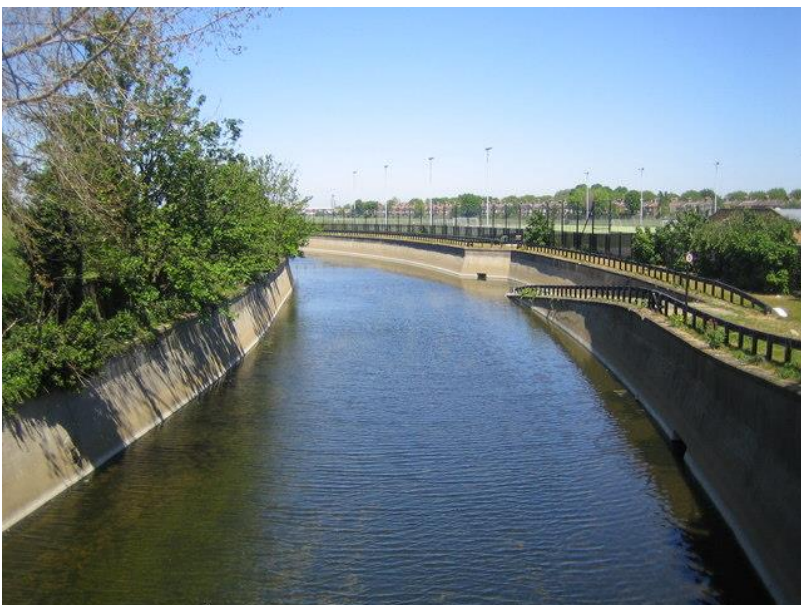


Pollution – affects wildlife and human health

Good water quality – essential for sturgeons & requested by WFD



**Channelized rivers + dams =
loss of ecosystem functionality**



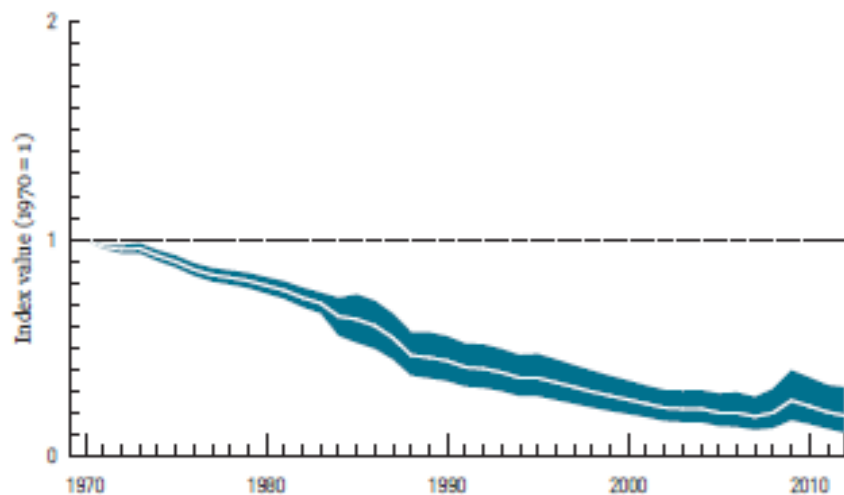
Restoring river hydromorphology

- Natural water retention measures
- Floodplain restoration

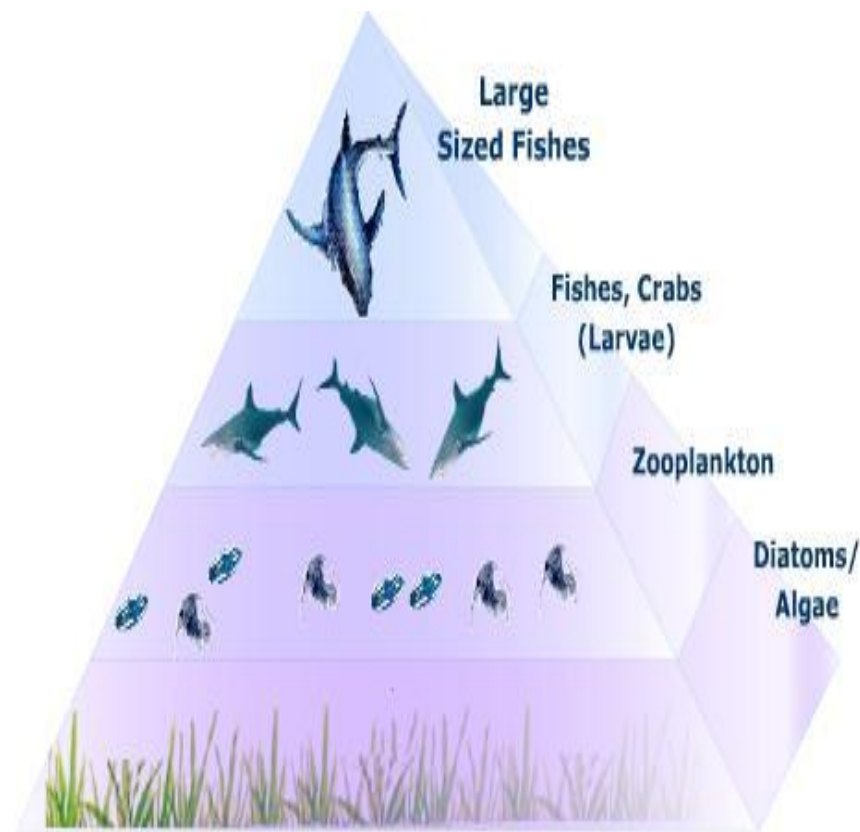


Biodiversity decline 58% between 1970 – 2012 (WWF, *Living Planet Report 2016*)

Freshwater biodiversity - decline 81%



Sturgeons – depend on the lower trophic levels



PA 7 & 9

Environmental education & research Develop “green” competences



Develop alternatives to fishery in local communities (aquaculture, eco-tourism, bio-products)



Trainings for capacity building

Joint activities with local communities



PA 11

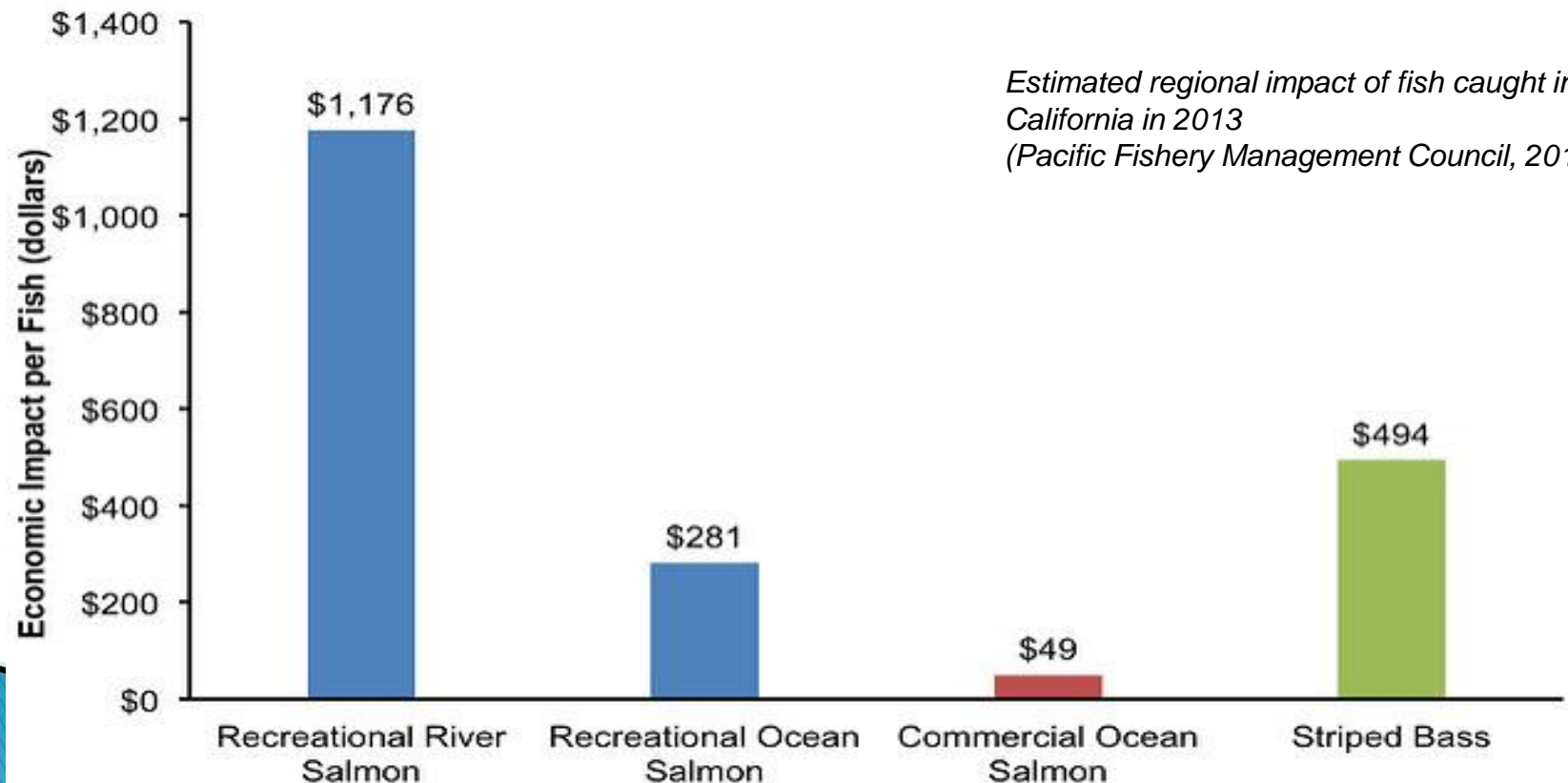
Check origin of sturgeon products
Green label for aquaculture products
Enforcement of controls



Sturgeon conservation – benefit for local communities

Wild sturgeons – critically endangered – protection needed

Once restored - high indirect benefits (jobs, sales, income, added value, etc)



*Estimated regional impact of fish caught in California in 2013
(Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2014)*

Urgent measures required

- **Establish ex-situ conservation facilities (restocking)**
- **Enhance control of fishery ban**
- **Develop alternative livelihood for local communities**
- **Restore migration corridors in the Danube River**
- **Launch restocking programs**
- **Establish aquaculture farms (market supply)**





Would you like to join us?

Contact:
cristina.sandu@dstf.eu