

Sturgeon Guard

Each spring, hundreds of volunteers have an opportunity to guard sturgeon at spawning sites on the Wolf River and protect the fish from poaching. When the sturgeon are spawning along the rocky shoreline of the Wolf River, they are fairly oblivious to nearby human activity and are susceptible to illegal harvest.



The volunteers of the “Sturgeon Patrol” guard the spawning fish 24 hours a day throughout the spawning season.

While it is impossible to predict the exact dates that spawning will occur each year, guards are routinely scheduled from early April through early May. Spawning generally occurs over a seven to 10-day period within that time window. While we do our best to get all scheduled guards out on the riverbank to see fish, invariably we must cancel some scheduled shifts if the fish are simply not active. We try in those cases to reschedule guards into an active period.

How to become a sturgeon guard volunteer

Come join the fun! Make volunteering a family outing by bringing a son or daughter your spouse or a friend. For many being a sturgeon guard volunteer has become an annual tradition.

To volunteer:

- Go to dnr.wi.gov/sgsignup and click on the Online Registration link, or
- Contact the DNR Call Center at 1-888-936-7463. Staff are available every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For additional information contact the DNR sturgeon guard coordinator at DNRSturgeonGuard@Wisconsin.gov or 920-420-1140.

Thank you for your interest in the Wisconsin DNR Sturgeon Guard program!

