

Tagging your sturgeon

SUCCESS! That impressive fish lies at your feet. Now what? The following list of *“frequently asked questions”* will help you understand the process of correctly tagging your sturgeon.

Do I need to attach the tag before dressing the fish or moving it? No, the carcass tag only needs to be attached if you leave the carcass. However, you still are required to validate your carcass tag immediately upon harvesting the sturgeon and before moving it. This now is done by detaching the bottom portion (the “validation stub”) from the rest of the tag. You do not need to keep the bottom portion once the tag is validated.

Where do I need to attach the tag on the sturgeon? There is no specific carcass location where the tag needs to be attached, so long as the tag is attached to a spot that is reasonably accessible for inspection.

Do I need to protect the tag? You are required to keep the validated carcass tag intact and in good, legible condition.

How am I supposed to protect and attach the tag? There is no specific process required so long as the methods you have chosen actually keep the validated tag protected and attached. The department suggests placing the validated tag in a clear plastic sandwich bag and securing the tag to the carcass using string, plastic ties or wire.



Am I required to attach the tag prior to or immediately after registration? No, the validated carcass tag only needs to be attached if you leave the carcass.

I’m not sure if I’m “leaving the carcass.” Am I allowed to attach the validated carcass tag before I leave it? Yes. There is no restriction on attaching the validated carcass tag “too early.” **When in doubt, just attach it.**

What if I leave the carcass with a friend; can I just give them the carcass tag? No. The validated carcass tag needs to be attached. The legal requirement is based on whether you, as the person providing the validated tag, have left the sturgeon. Leaving the carcass with other people does not change the requirement to attach a validated tag to your sturgeon when you leave it.

What if I still can see the carcass but I’m a long distance away from it? The validated carcass tag needs to be attached. In this example, it would not be reasonable to say that the carcass is with you, when, in fact, it is not. **When in doubt, just attach it.**

When can I remove the carcass tag? A validated carcass tag that has been attached to the sturgeon can only be removed from the fish when it is registered at a registration station.

If a tag is not attached to the fish, how will a conservation warden know if it was legally harvested? As in the past, you still are required to show the validated carcass tag to DNR staff upon their request. Once registered, the metal registration tag confirms the legality of the harvested sturgeon.



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