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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Habitat and Protected  
Resources Division  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

October 21, 1991

Robert W. Hargrove, Chief  
Environmental Impacts Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region II  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
New York, New York 10278

Dear Mr. Hargrove:

This is in response to your letter of October 16, 1991, requesting a list of endangered species present in the vicinity of the Hudson River PCB's Site in the Hudson River from Hudson Falls to the Battery in New York harbor. The shortnose sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum) is an endangered species that is known to inhabit the Hudson River from the mouth of the river to the dam at Troy, New York.

Enclosed is a copy of a Biological Synopsis for that species. The synopsis represents the most up to date published information about the shortnose sturgeon in that river system, although additional work has been done by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It is known from these and other studies that the sturgeon frequent certain specific habitats in most rivers. The spawning site in the Hudson River is believed to be immediately below the dam at Troy. Juvenile habitat would extend downstream to the salt wedge. Foraging and overwintering adults would use habitats throughout the river that are rich in the benthic infauna they prefer. The lock systems that make the upper river navigable above Troy would easily pass foraging adults as well.

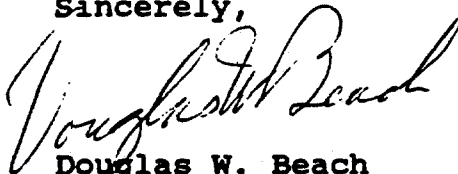
In summary, the entire range of the shortnose sturgeon in the Hudson River is within the Hudson River PCB's Site, and the benthic life history of this species makes it at particular risk to encountering PCB's in the surface sediments and infaunal organisms. Therefore, the next phase of the project should include an indepth analysis of the potential impacts of remedial action on the shortnose sturgeon. Considering the technical advances now available in determining the fine scale movements of this species, as demonstrated in the Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers, it may be feasible to conduct new surveys to better define the shortnose sturgeon's habitats in the Hudson.



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Please contact me at (508) 281-9254 if you have any further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Douglas W. Beach".

Douglas W. Beach  
Fishery Biologist

Enclosure