

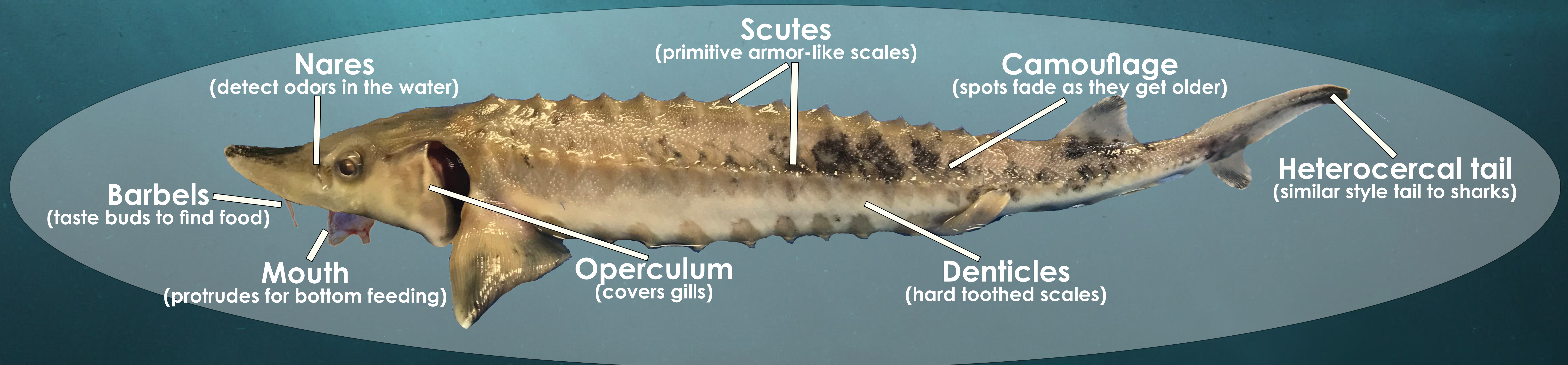
# Lake Sturgeon: A threatened giant

Lake sturgeon are a unique Great Lakes fish. Growing up to 200 pounds and 7 feet in length, they can live up to 100 years. Females are larger, mature slower, and live longer than male sturgeon.

As a threatened species in Michigan, commercial fishing is prohibited and recreational fishing is strictly regulated. Federal, State and Tribal agencies are working together to rehabilitate lake sturgeon.

Taking decades to reach maturity, females may only spawn once every 7 years, while males may spawn only once every 4 years. A 200 pound female sturgeon can lay up to a million eggs!

In the prime spawning habitat of the Menominee River (separating the U.P. and Wisconsin), “elevators” are used to get adult sturgeon around dams and to their spawning sites.



Each year sturgeon surveys are conducted around the state, and fish are tagged to track populations. Non-profit groups like Sturgeon for Tomorrow partner in efforts to understand and protect lake sturgeon while helping to educate the public.

Streamside rearing facilities are used to rear sturgeon eggs. Each year thousands of juvenile sturgeon are released during public events. Rearing streamside allows the sturgeon to imprint on that river, and grow large enough to be less vulnerable to predators.