



LR-E15-0034

EPP 5.4.2 Appendix B

**APR 17 2015**

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
ARTICLE NUMBER: 7013 2630 0000 0535 8160

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF IMPINGEMENT OF ATLANTIC STURGEON  
SALEM GENERATING STATION UNIT 1  
DOCKET NO. 50-272**

The Nuclear Environmental Event Report, "Report of Impingement of Atlantic Sturgeon" is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of Section 5.4.2 of Appendix B, Environmental Protection Plan, to the Operating License for the Salem Generating Station, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG).

Please find enclosed a letter and one (1) attachment with further information regarding this impingement event. This report reflects a live Atlantic Sturgeon collected on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Kenneth Strait, Manager – Biological Programs at (856) 339-3929.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. M. Wagner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lawrence M. Wagner  
Plant Manager - Salem  
PSEG Nuclear LLC

Attachments (1)

LE77  
NRR

## REPORT OF IMPINGEMENT OF ATLANTIC STURGEON

In accordance with Section 5.4.2 of Appendix B, Environmental Protection Plan, to the Operating License for the Salem Generating Station, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG) hereby transmits notification of a non-routine event, and documents the occurrence and removal of an Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) from the Salem Generating Station circulating water intake structure trash bars.

Consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) between NRC and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the effects of the operation of Salem Station on threatened and endangered species has been ongoing since 1979. The most recent revision to the Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement issued in January 1999 exempts the specified annual take of Shortnose Sturgeon and Sea Turtles. In advance of relicensing for Salem Station, consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA between NRC and NMFS was reinitiated in 2009. On April 6, 2012, the NMFS listed five Distinct Population Segments of Atlantic Sturgeon as threatened or endangered under the ESA. In May 2012, NRC requested consultation on the effects of the continued operation of Salem Station on Atlantic Sturgeon. The NMFS issued a draft Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement (ITS) in July 2012 that, when finalized, will authorize a specified incidental take of both Atlantic Sturgeon and Shortnose Sturgeon associated with operation of the Salem Station circulating water intake system.

Pursuant to Section 5.4.2 of the Environmental Protection Plan for Salem Station, non-routine events which require reporting to other federal agencies shall be reported in accordance with the other agencies' reporting requirements. Accordingly, enclosed please find one (1) attachment. Attachment 1 provides the information requested by the NMFS in Appendix II to the current ITS and in Appendix B, Part 2, to the revised draft ITS.

There are no commitments contained in this letter.

LR-E15-0034  
Document Control Desk

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USNRC Senior Resident Inspector - Salem  
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## ATTACHMENT 1 (Sturgeon)

Observer's full name: Michael Lawson (Environmental Consulting Services, Inc.)  
Reporter's full name: Michael Lawson

Species Identification (Key attached): Atlantic Sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus)

Site of Impingement (Unit 1 or 2, CWS or DWS, Bay #, etc.): PSEG SGS Unit 1; CWT bay 12B

Date animal observed: 03/25/15 Time animal observed: 08:50am  
Date animal collected: 03/25/15 Time animal collected: 09:00am  
Date rehab facility contacted: \_\_\_\_\_ Time rehab facility contacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date animal picked up: \_\_\_\_\_ Time animal picked up: \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental conditions at time of observation (i.e., tidal stage, weather):  
Air temp. -6.6°C; Sal. - 3.0ppt; wind - south; sky - partly cloudy; wave - slight; tide - Ebb 2 (87.5ft.)

Date and time of last inspection of screen: 03/25/15 @ 03:23am  
Water temperature (°C) at site and time of observation: 5.0°C

Number of pumps operating at time of observation: Unit 1 6 Unit 2 6

Average percent of power generating capacity achieved per unit at time of observation:

Unit 1 56.5% Unit 2 100%

Average percent of power generating capacity achieved per unit over the 48 hours previous to observation:

Unit 1 0% Unit 2 100%

### Sturgeon Information:

Species Atlantic Sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus)

Fork length (or total length) 736.6mm(FL)/812.8mm Weight 1.59kg

### Condition of specimen/description of animal

Specimen was alive at the time of retrieval by Salem Yard Crew. No severe damage was observed, but evidence of a minor laceration was found to exist between the caudal peduncle and the base of the caudal fin. ECSI fisheries technician measured, photographed, and scanned the specimen for tags. No tags were detected. The specimen was released back to the Delaware River at 09:36am.

Fish Decomposed: (NO) SLIGHTLY MODERATELY SEVERELY

Fish tagged: YES / (NO) Please record all tag numbers. Tag # \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph attached: (YES) / NO

(please label species, date, geographic site and vessel name on back of photograph)



ATTACHMENT 1 (Sturgeon)

Photographs



This view provides a right dorsolateral view showing the condition of the live Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), retrieved at 09:00am on 03/25/15 by Salem Yard Crew personnel while conducting routine trash rack cleaning at PSEG Salem Generating Station (03/25/15).



This photo provides a right dorsolateral view of the tail and shows the location of minor damage at the base of the caudal fin on the specimen (3/25/15).

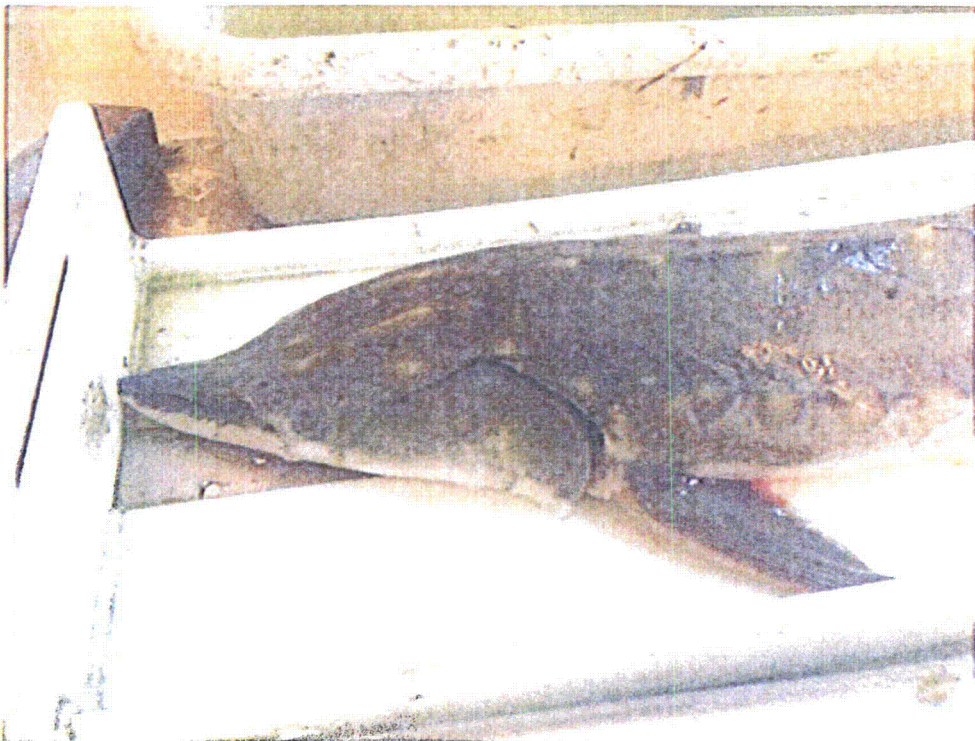


ATTACHMENT 1 (Sturgeon) continued

Photographs



This view provides a left dorsolateral view of the sturgeon, taken at the time of processing and data collection (3/25/15).

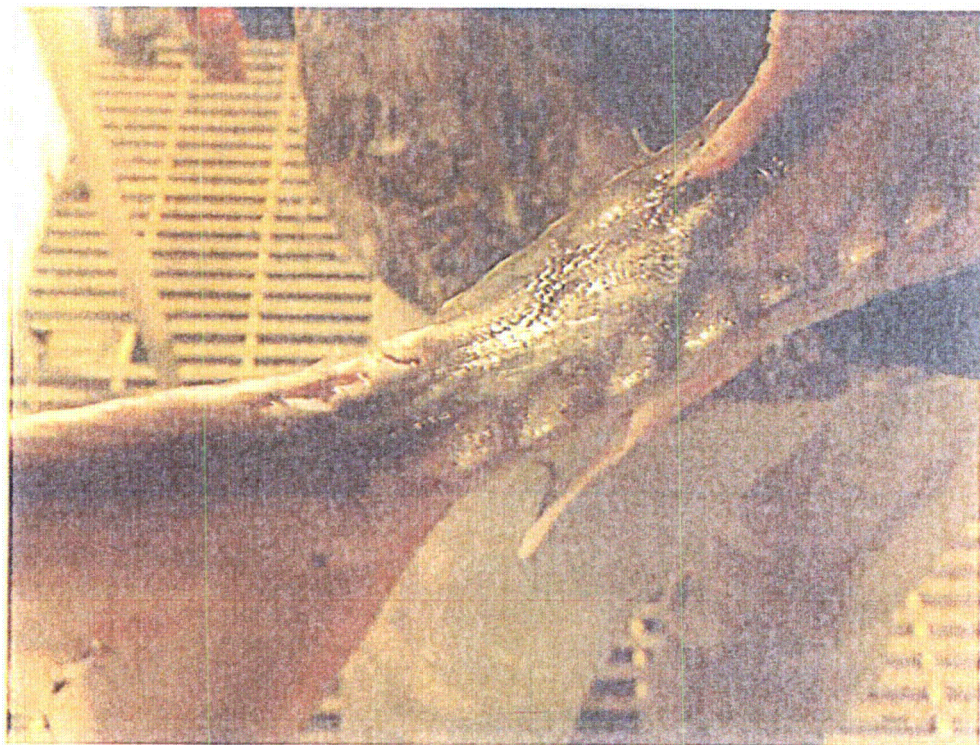


This view, also taken at the time of processing, provides a close-up of the left side of the head and shows the characteristic elongated rostrum of the species (3/25/15).



ATTACHMENT 1 (Sturgeon) continued

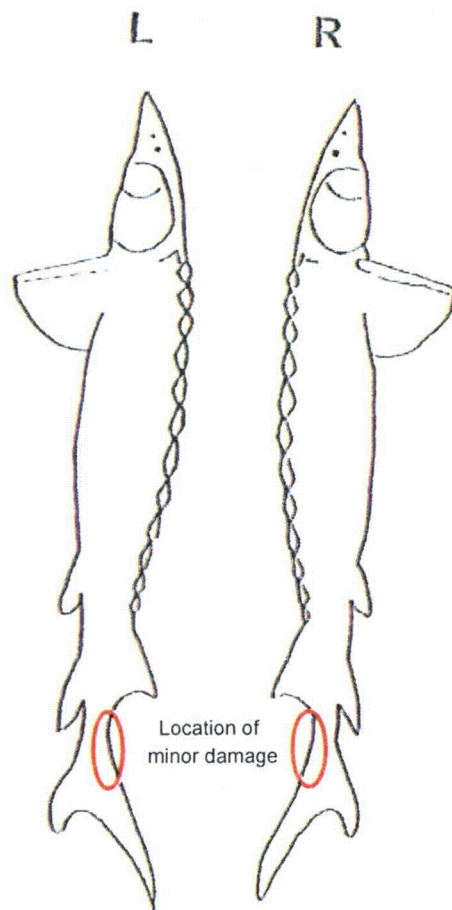
Photographs



This view provides a close-up of the specimen's lower caudal fin, and shows the minor damage observed to the dorsal margin (3/25/15).

### ATTACHMENT 1 (Sturgeon) continued

Draw wounds, abnormalities, tag locations on diagram and briefly describe below



#### Description of fish condition:

Specimen was alive but slightly damaged at the time of retrieval by Salem Yard Crew. Damage to the fish was indicated by the existence of minor abrasion or laceration located at the base of the caudal fin and along the upper dorsal margin of the caudal fin (See illustration above). The cause of the damage is unknown. After processing, the specimen was released back to the Delaware River via the north fish trough discharge at approximately 09:36am.