



AMEND THE ESA TO EXEMPT FARMED STURGEON

The Sturgeon Conservation and Sustainability Act of 2025 amends the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to allow the continued production of farmed sturgeon in the United States.

Russian, Persian, Stellate and Ship sturgeon species were petitioned for listing in March 2012 under the ESA. Ten years later, May 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposed rule to list the species as endangered which would end commercial production in the United States and importation of foreign produced caviar from these species whether farmed in the species' natural range or not. However, foreign production and sale would continue for the rest of the world. As of May 2025, the listing has not been finalized.

Over this 13-year period, U.S. sturgeon farms have closed with only two farms in Florida and North Carolina, respectively, continuing to operate. The majority of farms were unwilling to risk forced closure of farms that pose absolutely no risk to the four sturgeon species in their Black and Caspian Sea natural range. The loss in jobs and income to rural communities as well as a high-value food produced in compliance with costly, complex farming and food safety rules is unconscionable. U.S. farmed-sturgeon are reared from entirely domesticated stocks, have no impact on wild populations in their native ranges outside the U.S., and benefit the conservation of these species by providing a legal source of caviar to global markets and alleviating poaching pressure on wild sturgeon.

To co-sponsor or support the Sturgeon Conservation and Sustainability Act of 2025, please contact Kyle Garner, Kyle.Garner@mail.house.gov, with Rep. Dan Webster's Office or Clayton Stein, Clayton_Stein@rickscott.senate.gov, with Senator Rick Scott's Office.