**Acipenser medirostris**

Green Sturgeon

Acipenseridae, the sturgeon

### Diagnostic Characteristics

- Large, round body; can reach 7 feet in length and up to 350 pounds
- Toothless mouth with four barbels
- Body contains 7-11 dorsal scutes (modified scales), 22-36 lateral scutes, and 5-10 ventral scutes
- Olive-green to dark green on back side to yellowish green-white on underbelly

### Background

- Found in North America in coastal areas from Mexico and north to Alaska
- Anadromous fish that spends most of its life in salt water
- Slow growing
- Spawns every 4-11 years in freshwater
- Juveniles feed on algae and small invertebrates
- Adults feed on benthic organisms and small fish

---

Photo Credit:
[http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/fish/North_American_green_sturgeon/](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/fish/North_American_green_sturgeon/)