



1854 Treaty Authority

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Jay Walker,
Executive Director, Great Lakes Aquarium
218-740-2011
jwalker@glqaarium.org

Re: The Lake Sturgeon Rearing Project at Great Lakes Aquarium (GLA) is a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) to support the rehabilitation of lake sturgeon in the St. Louis River Estuary.

On behalf of the 1854 Treaty Authority, I am writing this letter to support the restoration project of rearing lake sturgeon at the Great Lakes Aquarium for the St. Louis River. The 1854 Treaty Authority is an inter-tribal natural resource management organization that protects and implements the off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights for the Grand Portage and Bois Forte bands. Lake sturgeon are an important cultural species within the 1854 Ceded Territory (present day northeastern Minnesota) and across reservations.

Lake Sturgeon are a focus species in the “Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan” for the 1854 Ceded Territory including the Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage Reservations. The delayed sexual maturity and intermittent spawning behaviors are unique qualities that make sturgeon even more vulnerable to environmental impacts as they take longer to recover from failed year-classes. This project to rear lake sturgeon at the Great Lakes Aquarium and later release these fish into the St. Louis River, will significantly help supplement weak or failed year-classes for years to come. This project will not only be extremely beneficial from a biological standpoint, but it will also create countless opportunities to educate the public about this culturally significant species.

The work proposed in this project will work to protect and restore sturgeon, which are important to the Bands that retain treaty rights within the 1854 Ceded Territory.

Sincerely,

Nick Bogyo
Fisheries Biologist
1854 Treaty Authority