

# Lake Sturgeon

Methods & Prices to Preserve your Trophy

The sturgeon's thick fins, oily head and cartilage makes it impossible to produce a long lasting, odor free mount using conventional taxidermy techniques.

There are 3 methods for the avid lake sturgeon fisherman to preserve his or her trophy - a replica, a replica head mount or a "composite" mount.

## 1. COMMERCIAL REPLICA

There are currently only 11 sizes of Lake Sturgeon available from 6 different manufacturers across the USA. Casting and making custom replicas of entire fish is NOT done by Simpson Taxidermy Studio.

Prices below are for finished replicas picked up in Winneconne. WI sales tax or shipping to customer are NOT included.

**2022 prices** – subject to change w/o notice.

Lake Sturgeon replicas currently available:

LENTH	GIR	WT #	POSE	PROD #	TOTAL
39"	?	?	L	McG	\$606
40"	15"	11.5	L	ST14L	\$795
48"	19"	?	L	STUR-48	\$770
49"	20"	40	L	SLK49-1	\$930
53"	21.5"	35	L	ST10L	\$1020
61"	27.25"	85	L	PRO-205	\$1065
65"	24	70	R	SLK65-1	\$1225
65"	33"	105	R	ST11R	\$1250
72"	30"	125	L	ST13R	\$1385

### SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

28"	9"	3	LT	STS10L	\$630
33"	12"	6.7	LT	SSN33.0-1	\$550
37	13	8.5	LT	2741	\$625

### ATLANTIC OR GULF STURGEON.

73"	33"	150	L	NIC	\$1190
76"	31"	?	L	NIC	\$1240
78"	32.75	?	L	BL-822	\$1485

Customizing any replica above to match our fishes dimensions is priced as follows:

~ For replicas 75" or less ~ \$100 per inch of alteration + price of the closest size replica

~ For replicas 76" + ~ \$125 per inch + \$250 (replacement head) + price of the closest size replica

## 2. STURGEON HEAD

A less costly and unique way to display your trophy is with a sturgeon head mount. These are available **exclusively** thru Simpson Taxidermy Studio. These were the head molds made for some of the composite mounts I have done over the last 20 years. Each head is made from a special rigid latex material and will last a lifetime. They are made to order in the sizes below or I will custom cast your sturgeon's head for an additional fee. They can be mounted on a panel or hung directly on the wall. Add a trophy plate with the length, weight date and other important information and you have a unique and lasting tribute to your pursuit of this ancient fish.

### Sizes Currently Available

Prices - may not be current

STOCK #	LENGTH	WT	SIZE	PRICE
SH-18	41"	16#	SML	\$250
SH-5	46"	22#	SM	\$250
SH-20	50	30#	SM	\$250
SH-17	51"	33#	SM	\$250
SH-6	55"	75#	MED	\$275
SH-1	57"	85#	MED	\$275
SH-4	60"	95#	MED	\$275
SH-19	63"	96#	MED	\$275
SH-14	64"	105#	MED	\$275
SH-11	65"	87#	MED	\$275
SH-2	65"	105#	MED	\$275
SH-7	66"	110#	MED	\$275
SH-3	67"	115#	MED	\$275
SH-15	68"	95#	MED	\$275
SH-9	72"	125#	LG	\$300
SH-13	73"	155#	LG	\$300
SH-8	74"	168#	LG	\$300
SH-10	79"	163#	X LG	\$300
SH-16	79"	175#	X LG	\$325
SH-12	84"	220#	X LG	\$325

Angle mounts with 1 fin - add \$150 ~ 2 FINS - add \$250  
OR

**We will custom cast your sturgeon head - \$500 (finished)  
for any size head**

**Drop the mouth tube on any replica head - \$125 extra**  
Custom Oak panel - add \$65

## 3. COMPOSITE MOUNTS

**\$22.00 per inch\***

**REPRODUCTION HEAD & FINS W/ REAL BODY  
SKIN FROM YOUR FISH**

In the traditional method of fish taxidermy, the fish is skinned, dry preserved and mounted on a foam form. This method uses the entire skin to produce a mounted fish. But the sturgeon is an exceptionally oily fish with thick fins and a head full of cartilage and grease. Using these methods on a sturgeon results in a poor quality mount that eventually begins to smell and "bleed" grease.

A **composite mount** is combination of a skin mount and a replica that I developed for customers that wanted a "mounted" sturgeon, but also wanted a mount that would last. I remove the head **and** all fins from the sturgeon. Then I cast them and make latex or fiberglass replicas of these parts. A foam form is hand carved to match your sturgeons measurements. The **tanned** skin and the artificial head and fins are then mounted to the form. After drying and blending, your composite sturgeon is ready to paint. The tanned skin and artificial parts will hold the paint for years, are exact copies of your sturgeon and since no oily parts are left, it will never bleed grease or have a "fishy" odor.

It is a very time-consuming way to mount a fish and that makes it fairly expensive. However, since I guarantee **all** my mount for a minimum of 10 years, it is the **ONLY** way I will "mount" a sturgeon.

### COMPARISON OF COMPOSITE MOUNTS AND REPLICAS SOME OF THE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES ARE -

A composite mount is YOUR fish - even the replica parts are casts of your fish's head and fins.

It is the same size as your fish - you don't have to get the "closest" size.

It has better skin and head detail than a commercial replica. You can have it mounted in the pose you want.

### Disadvantages of Composite Mounts compared to Replicas

More expensive than replicas due to tremendous amount of labor  
Completion can be 12-24 months - again due to the large amount of labor involved.

\*Price subject to change w/o notice.

## Answers to FAQ's and common misconceptions about replicas

### All fish replicas are cast from actual fish.

Most are cast from molds made using freshly caught specimens, some are cast from molds of previously mounted fish. The replica "blank" is then made from some form of resin gel coat with fiber layers added for strength. There is NO such thing as a "graphite" replica. More information on the different types of replicas can be found on my website

### Nearly every species of fresh and salt water fish is available as a replica.

However, there is a much bigger selection of some species and sizes than others. Very large specimens or species that are uncommon may **not** be available in some cases or selection very limited to just a couple choices.

### A replica is not made to match the measurements of your fish,

but by shopping the inventory lists of many different manufacturers, I can usually find a match or near match to your fish.

**The quality of a replica** is determined by the knowledge, experience, artistic ability and craftsmanship of the taxidermist. Defects in the molding and casting process must be repaired, fins attached and a mouth sculpted in. And of course, the replica must be painted to match YOUR fish. This is where the ability of the taxidermy artist you chose is really apparent. Choose wisely.

## WHAT TO DO IN THE FIELD

**For a Replica** - gather the following information -

1. **Length** - Measured from the nose to the tip of the tail
2. **Girth** - Measure the girth at the largest point around the fishes body
3. **Weight & Sex**
4. **Photos** - Take several good color photos of the **FISH (not you and the fish)** from different angles. Use a 35 mm or a good digital camera set at high resolution. Try to get both sides as well as close-ups with some multi-colored objects in the background. This will help your camera and the developer get the right tints to the photos. Avoid flash photos or photos in direct sun (too much glare off the fish) snow, deep shadow and night pictures. The better the photo, the more accurately I can match the characteristics of your individual fish.

### For a Head Mount -

Record the Length & Weight then cut the head off behind the front (pectoral) fin, wrap in a wet towel and freeze until you can bring it in. Good photos are helpful.

### For a Composite Mount -

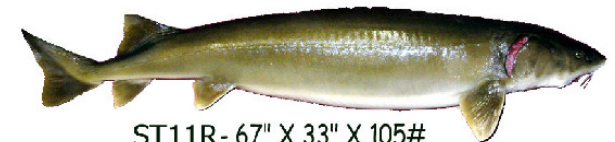
You need to **bring the fish in whole** and it will have to be skinned immediately in order for you to have the meat, so call for an appointment. If you **must** gut the sturgeon - do NOT cut down the center of the belly. Choose the "show" side you want, then cut the **BACK SIDE** open to remove the roe and/or the entrails. Good photos are always helpful.

# STURGEON MOUNTS & REPLICAS

By

## Simpson Taxidermy Studio

*Turning Outdoor Memories  
into Wildlife Art*



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"Red" Simpson, Owner

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**OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Hours may vary – Please call ahead

This is a 1 man operation and on occasion, I may have to close for personal reasons. PLEASE call ahead before driving any distance, assuming that I will be open. I am also closed for several weeks every summer to take some vacation time. For safety and security reasons, I do not put that info on my answering machine or post it on the Internet.

**PLEASE CALL AHEAD**

[www.simpsonstaxidermy.com](http://www.simpsonstaxidermy.com)

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