STERLET / ACIPENSER RUTHENUS
The freshwater sturgeon

30% - 50%
- is the estimated wild native population decline over the past 20-30 years
- Overfishing mostly for their meat is major threat to this species

Populations in the Ural, Volga and Danube have stabilised in recent years

Lives entirely in freshwater and unlike other sturgeons does not migrate from the Black Sea

WWF BULGARIA DID THE BIGGEST RESTOCKING FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS, RELEASING 50,000 STERLETS IN THE DANUBE.

This species is largely sedentary, undertaking only short spawning migrations. Tagging has revealed a maximum migration distance in the Danube of just over 300 km.

The only available catch data for the Danube is for 1958-1981, where catches ranged from 117 tonnes in 1963 to 36 tonnes in 1979, with an average catch of 63.5 tonnes per year.

Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania have all reported re-stocking programmes for their stretches of the Danube.

Nowadays the most widely distributed sturgeon species in the Danube River basin

www.danube-sturgeons.org