



## Sturgeons in the European Union

Within the EU, all sturgeons are protected by EU nature conservation legislation, so exploitation for caviar is strictly regulated.

Only two EU countries, Bulgaria and Romania, have exploited their wild sturgeon populations to produce caviar. These countries joined the EU in 2007.

As an alternative to harvesting wild populations, the EU funds the development of aquaculture in Eastern Europe. A growing percentage of the caviar consumed in the EU is sourced from aquaculture (currently about 25%), reducing the pressure on populations of wild sturgeon.