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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Kaluga

The **Kaluga**, *Huso dauricus*, is listed as Critically Endangered on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It inhabits the entire Amur River basin, in the Russian Federation and China, from the estuary to the river's upper reaches and also occurs in many tributary rivers. It is thought to be the largest freshwater fish in the world, with a maximum size of over 1000 kg in weight and 5.6 m in length.

The Kaluga has experienced a dramatic population decline of more than 80% since the 19th Century due to overfishing for caviar production. Despite prohibitions on the fishing of this sturgeon, poaching is still a severe threat to its future survival. Additionally, environmental pollution in the Amur River basin now threatens the habitat and reproduction of this species.

The Kaluga is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade in this species should be carefully monitored and controlled. Commercial sturgeon fishing was prohibited in the Amur River basin, and elsewhere in the Russian Federation, during periods from 1923-1930, 1958-1976 and from 1984 to present. However, legislation and enforcement have not eliminated the threat of poaching to this species.

Knowledge 
Experts 
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