

# Memorandum

To : Sacramento River, Sacramento County File

Date: July 10, 1981

From : **Department of Fish and Game**

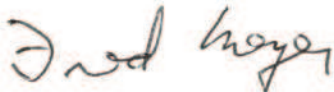
Subject: Sturgeon Planting by Elk Grove Catfish Farm

On June 26, 1981, I observed the planting of young sturgeon by a private fish breeder, the Elk Grove Catfish Farm. The owner is Owen Vic (sp) who informed me that he is planning to sell most of the land in Elk Grove and move the sturgeon raising to Oregon. As a result, he wanted to plant most of the young sturgeon reared this year. The manager is Ken Beer, who did the actual planting with an assistant, Ken Lawson.

When I arrived at the rearing ponds, a few thousand young sturgeon were already in the tank of the truck. Ken and his assistants seined the rearing pond and put all of the young sturgeon caught into the truck also. The number of sturgeon in the tank was visually estimated at 12,000 fish, which should have been well over half the young fish in the pond. Two adult sturgeon were also loaded.

We met the TV people (3 channels) and Vince Vandre, Conservation Education, at the Freeport bridge. The two Kens planted about 8,000 of the young fish using buckets and Ken Beer discussed the program with the TV people. About 200 young sturgeon were laying on the bottom on their backs. When inspected, they appeared to be only resting and swam off after a while. There did not appear to be any direct mortality of the young nor of the two adults. One of the TV stations wanted to get some film of the rearing and seining process. Ken Beer took them back to the Farm, seined up about 3,000 more young fish and took the remaining 7,000 young sturgeon to Knight's Landing. He had promised this to the sportsmen who had donated the adult fish. I did not go with him to Knight's Landing.

In summary, Ken Beer planted about 15,000 young sturgeon which is the majority of the fish he had reared.



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FM:ss