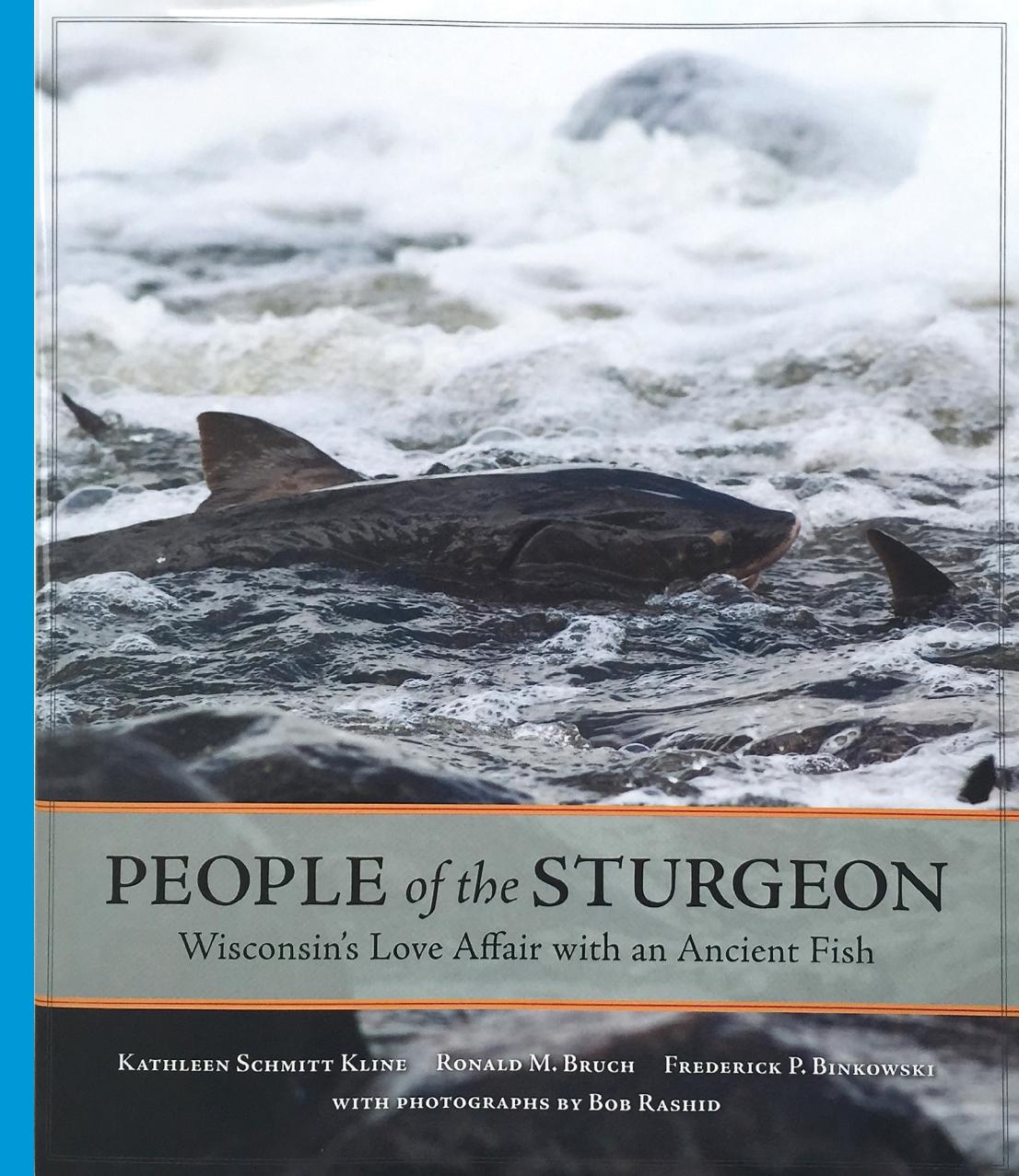


Around the world, lake sturgeon — ancient fish that have existed since the time of dinosaurs — are disappearing due to overharvesting and climate change. The sturgeon population in Lake Winnebago, however, has flourished thanks to scientific and community involvement in population management. *People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish* is a tale of the cultural and scientific history of this

iconic Wisconsin fish. The book has inspired a series of projects carried out by the Wisconsin Water Library and collaborators, each highlighting a different aspect of the story's importance. The three projects — oral history preservation, collaboration with the arts, and Story Map visualization — reach distinct audiences and demonstrate the value of experiential learning in outreach and education.



Preservation, Collaboration, and Visualization

How a Book Becomes an Experience



PHOTO BY BOB RASHID

Preservation of Oral Histories

Throughout the process of writing *People of the Sturgeon* (2006–2008), the authors recorded interviews with individuals who have connections to the Lake Winnebago sturgeon population. In the winter of 2019, a decade after the book was published, Wisconsin Water Library employees preserved the audio recordings in the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections. In addition to the wealth of knowledge contained in the recordings, the audio also commemorates the contributions of interviewees who have since passed away.

The oral histories contain:

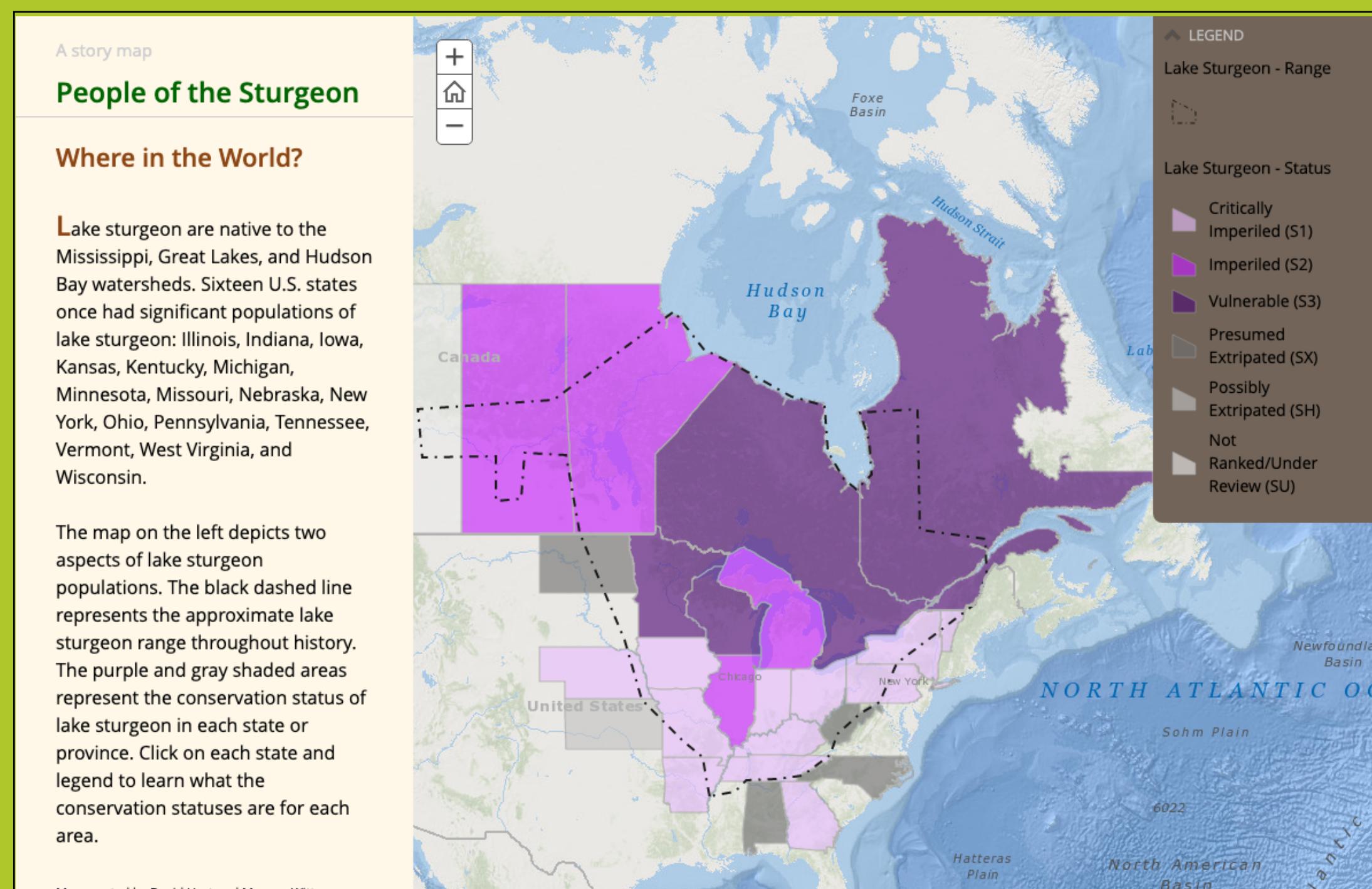
- Information about successful research and population management practices
- Indigenous knowledge of sturgeon and water resources
- Memories, tall tales, and folklore
- Discussions of cultural and artistic expression

PHOTO BY THELMA SADOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Shedding light on the intersection of art, science, and culture, the exhibit included:

- Fine art
- Fishing decoys and spears
- Sturgeon memorabilia from around the world
- Audio from the preserved oral histories
- A record-sized taxidermied sturgeon



Visualization through Story Mapping

ESRI Story Maps allow for a unique visualization experience of place-based stories. Text, images, interactive maps, and audio converge to educate audiences about a topic with an emphasis on how a story plays out across space and time. A story map was created by the Wisconsin Water Library detailing *People of the Sturgeon*, including:

- A condensed version of the book text
- Audio from the preserved oral histories
- Images collected from interviewees
- Updated and enhanced maps depicting key place-based data, including range of sturgeon populations, management programs, and dams.