

Anesthesia Box Construction

Dewayne Fox – DSU

Dimensions for the sturgeon surgery box are 90 inches long x 22 inches high x 19 inches wide. These are outside dimensions and are not set in stone, they can be modified to suit individual needs. For structural support I used 2 x 4's and the sides and bottom are made of 5/8" or 1/2". The 5/8" plywood used for the first box was a little heavy so 1/2" was used for the second and reduces the weight but still holds up.

I ran a ring of 2x4's flat around the bottom of the box. There is also a ring laid upright (flat against the plywood) around the top edge. In the 4 corners I used vertical 2x4's for strength and to give the plywood something to screw to. These are placed with the wider side of the 2x4 to the longer side of the box. On all seams I used lots of 3M 5200 marine adhesive (one whole big tube per box). And for screws I used 10 year coated deck screws but stainless might hold up a little longer.

In the ends I took a 1 inch hole saw to place a row of notches in the top 2x4's (but not the plywood) to hold the sling we had built. The sling is a 60" X 40" piece of coated marine canvas with pockets on the long sides for 1" wooden poles (cut to fit nicely in the box), again adjust as needed for size of fish.

If used on a boat I recommend using foam padding on the ends so the sturgeon don't bump their snouts to hard from the rocking.

