

NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON



Follow the story of sturgeon through time from the perspective of Ts'eketi.



Ts'eketi gets checked over by Fraser after she was brought into the boat. (Photo by FFSBC)

TS'EKETI

a female sturgeon that was caught as part of the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative brood capture and spawning program.

Ts'eketi - meaning 'very respected female elder' in Dakelh - was at the time the largest Nechako White Sturgeon ever captured by the NWSRI. She measured 2.9 m long and 152 kg. She was estimated at 100 years old. Some of her hundreds of thousands of eggs were harvested to bring her genetics to the next generation.



A young hatchery raised sturgeon is released into the Nechako River with a radio-transmitter implanted into its body so researchers can follow its movement for the next few years to support recovery. (Photo by Christina Gesielski)

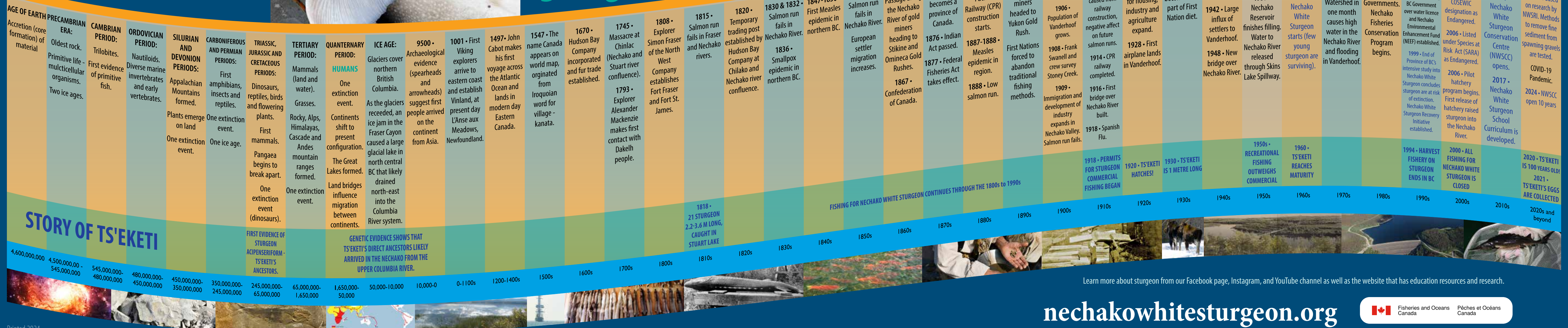
Since 1900...

A lot has happened in the Nechako Watershed over the last 100+ years. Ts'eketi's journey, which started in and around 1920, has faced multiple impacts to the Nechako Watershed from • land use and development from the movement of white settlers into the Nechako Valley in the early 1900s • building of Kenney Dam in the 1950s that changed the nature of the river and water • fishing pressure from an active sturgeon fishery from the mid-1900s to 1990s and accidental bi-catches in First Nation salmon gill-nets • impacts of climate change being felt throughout the entire watershed today.

When Ts'eketi reached maturity in the 1960s, it is likely that very few of Ts'eketi's eggs and larvae would have survived after 1967. The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) was formed in 2000 to find ways to recover the population and help Ts'eketi's offspring survive to the next generation. The Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre is one part of the NWSRI's work with the goal to maintain genetic diversity to restore a naturally reproducing population of sturgeon in the Nechako Watershed. Habitat restoration will become more important as juvenile sturgeon numbers increase in the watershed.



Sturgeon over geological time...



Learn more about sturgeon from our Facebook page, Instagram, and YouTube channel as well as the website that has education resources and research.

nechakowhitesturgeon.org

