

Unit 3: Nechako White Sturgeon Decline

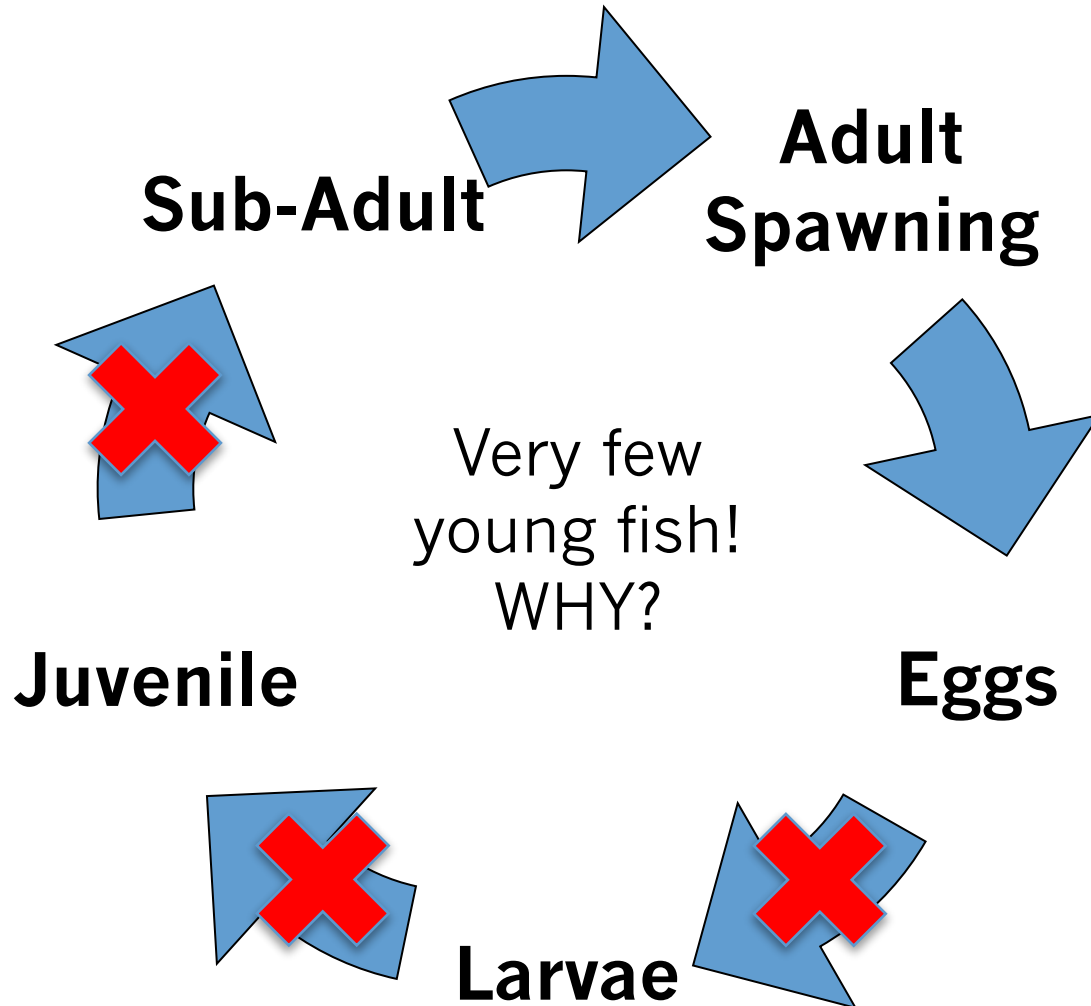


There used to be thousands of sturgeon in the Nechako River. Now there are not enough young sturgeon to produce the next generation.

Knowing what you now know about Nechako white sturgeon...



Why are young sturgeon not surviving?



Altered Habitat

Need

- Deep water
- Fast flowing
- High turbidity
- Cool
- Clean gravel

Have

- Water controlled by dam
- Fast flowing
- Not as high turbidity
- Lots of silt in gravel
- Few floods make for less turbidity
- Loss of riparian less shade
- Lots of silt in gravel



Poor Survival

Need

- Deep water
- High turbidity
- Habitat to hide from predators

Have

- Water controlled by dam
- Not as high turbidity
- Altered habitat
- Predators

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Need

- Clean water
- Lots of invertebrates and fish
- Deep and turbid water

Have

- Pollution from human development (towns, farms, industry)
- Salmon fisheries (in the ocean and river)
- Dam



Climate Change

Need

- Cool water

Have

- Changing water conditions



What do you think are the biggest factors?

