

NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

VIDEO 3 - STURGEON IN THE WILD

This video explains where sturgeon are found naturally in the Nechako Watershed, their spawning habitat and habits, as well as their movements within and outside the watershed.

Total Length: 7:51 minutes. It is broken into several sections. Below are some key questions to think about in each section of the video.

Watershed: 00:00 to 02:25

This section of the video gives a simple explanation of what a watershed is and some facts and figures related to the Nechako Watershed and sturgeon.

- What is a watershed?
- How do human activities impact a watershed?

Spawning Beds: 02:25 to 03:14

- What factors have impacted the spawning grounds for sturgeon?
- Explain broadcast spawning and how changes to spawning ground sediment could impact this method of spawning. (see also 04:21-04:39)

Restoration: 03:14 to 04:21

- What is good spawning habitat?
- What increases the risk to Nechako White Sturgeon?

Fertilization: 04:21 to 04:39

This section offers an explanation of broadcast spawning.

Sturgeon Food: 04:39 to 05:29

- What are the main food sources for sturgeon at their different life stages?

How Sturgeon Eat: 05:29 to 06:08

This section explains in detail how sturgeon eat, and shows video of sturgeon eating.

- Explain how sturgeon feed. Do any other species feed in this same manner?

Where are the Sturgeon: 06:08 to 07:51

- Where can you find Nechako White Sturgeon?
- Why do you think sturgeon move downstream and out of the Nechako River?

Additional resources to support the learning in this video include:

[Watersheds Lesson 2-1](#)

[Habitat and Humans Lesson 2-4](#)

[Recovery and Rehabilitation Lesson 2-5](#)

[Sturgeon Decline presentation \(Unit 3\)](#)

[Sturgeon Habitat and Food presentation \(Unit 3\)](#)

[Sturgeon Decline Lesson 3-4](#)

DEFINITIONS

Throughout the video, the narrator uses scientific language. Here are some definitions to support your understanding.

Broadcast Spawning: Releasing eggs and milt into the water column to be fertilized.

Extirpated: A species that is no longer found in a particular area where it persisted naturally previously.

Benthic: Found on the bottom.

Barbels: Sensory appendages on the lower part of the sturgeon's head that feels and detects food.

IN CLASS HANDS ON RESOURCE

Ask at SD91 how to borrow the **Watershed Demonstration Kit**

More available at:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org

Facebook @NWSRI

FURTHER EXPLORING:

This video touched on sturgeon spawning habitat, human land use impacts, and how sturgeon spawn. Using what you know about sturgeon eggs, discuss the following questions as a class:

How does how sturgeon spawn link to their habitat needs at the spawning grounds?

If the spawning grounds change, how can that impact sturgeon over the long-term?

