

NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

VIDEO 4 - PREDATION

This video goes into depth about predation on sturgeon at different life stages. The video also explains a study on otter predation on sturgeon in the Nechako River. This gives a great local example of meaningful research.

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.

Predators at Life Stages: 00:00 to 00:50

- What are the main predators at each life stage?

Predation Impact on Conservation Program: 00:50 to 02:15

- What land uses are suspected of changing the spawning grounds for sturgeon?
- Why is it important to understand predation on sturgeon?

Predation Study: 02:15 to 05:50

- What are the characteristics of a latrine site?
- How do you know otters have fed on a sturgeon?

Data related to Predation Study: 05:50 to 06:33

- What do the numbers of PIT tags found tell us about the impacts on sturgeon?

Other Predators: 06:33 to 09:18

- Name some of the other animal that prey on sturgeon.
- Are humans predators too?
- How long have we not been able to fish for sturgeon?

Additional resources to support this video include:

[History of Nechako White Sturgeon - Timeline](#)

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

[Field Trip Experiment](#)

DEFINITIONS

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

Spawning Success: When there is natural spawning in the river that produces sturgeon.

Predation: When an animal is eaten by another animal.

Latrine: Specific location used by animals (in this case otters) to play and excrete.

Scat: Excrement or poop.

PIT Tags: Passive Integrated Transponder - see the [worksheet about PIT Tags](#)

More available at:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org

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FURTHER EXPLORING:

This video explains an experiment on determining how many sturgeon otter in the Nechako River eat. In small groups, discuss the following questions as a class:

Start [here](#) and learn more about the predation research project and other research projects happening on sturgeon in the Nechako River. Then create pick a topic of interest to you - predation, life cycle, spawning, habitat needs - and design a field experiment to help answer your question. Be sure to

- create a question
- explain your methods of how you would test your question
- make up the data for your experiment and present it tables or chart
- explain the results you have and why you think the results are the way they are

