



We invite you to become involved in the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative:

- Continue to avoid harvesting sturgeon
- Report any sightings of sturgeon
- Live release any bycatch of sturgeon
- Encourage other fisher-people to live release sturgeon bycatch
- Report any sturgeon bycatch to your community monitor
- Participate in the Emergency Live Sturgeon Release Boat Kit Program
- Provide information on any dead sturgeon to your community monitor (they may want samples so please leave the fish)

Returning a sturgeon to the water quickly is critical to its survival.

- Attempt to keep the fish, particularly its gills and mouth, under the water while untangling the net.
- Avoid touching the sturgeon's barbels and gills as they are easily damaged.

**Lhecho ghunli-un onle.
Ndi lho nyun cha 'ink'ez nts'u haindene cha ba dizti' netsowhudilhzulh-ne ts'u doni.**

Please be a steward of the sturgeon. Let your leaders know these fish are important to you and future generations.

Please Help The Sturgeon!

Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative



www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org



Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
www.carriersekani.ca
250-562-6279

Fishers have an important role to play by live releasing the few mature sturgeon that are left should they be accidentally caught in a gill net.

Remember, every fish counts!

"Mussi"

To learn more about the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative Please Visit Us:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org

Visit Us on Facebook:

Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative

The Issue

The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC) and the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) are coming together in an attempt to save the sturgeon of the Nechako-Stuart-Takla and Upper Fraser systems.

Dakelh people have lived in harmony with white sturgeon, utilizing and sustaining the population in this system for thousands of years.

Sturgeon have been valued by First Nations people for food.

The recruitment problems currently facing the Nechako White Sturgeon were not caused by the past sustainable harvest of the Dakelh people.

Regardless the sturgeon population has reached a critically low level and all people must take an active role before it is too late to recover this magnificent fish.

Background

Today the Nechako River has undergone many changes. In particular the amount of water and timing of flow has changed with the installation of the Kenney Dam in 1952.

Other factors that potentially negatively affect sturgeon numbers include: temperature, turbidity and sedimentation, channel structure, agricultural activities runoff, increase in rooted aquatic plants, and possibly a decrease in food.

As a result, Nechako white sturgeon numbers are very low with only an estimated 600 adult fish left.

- Since the late 1960's few juvenile sturgeon have survived to become adults.
- The number of adults is declining.
- This means few mature breeding stock remain to sustain the population.
- This can also result in a loss of genetic diversity within the population.

Since 2000 the CSTC and NWSRI have been conducting research to identify the reasons why very few juvenile white sturgeon are surviving to breeding age in the Nechako watershed.

We are working towards realistic solutions to the habitat problem but it will take time.

Working together we have designed and implemented habitat protection and restoration projects, with a goal to rebuild the population to a level that can once again sustain harvest. Right now sturgeon need your help to survive and recover.

Each year we attempt to secure funding to hire a bycatch monitor within each Nation. This person helps live release sturgeon bycatch and discusses the need for conservation of sturgeon, how to safely release a live sturgeon, and the information required from any dead sturgeon.

