



Help Save the Nechako White Sturgeon

The kit contains all of the tools necessary for the successful release of live sturgeon from a gill net. The tools in the kit were chosen in partnership with participating First Nation fishers. The kit also contains patches and net mending needles that can be used to fix holes in nets that result from the live release of a sturgeon.

The video details how to live release sturgeon caught in a gill net and how to mend a net damaged from a live release. The video has 6 chapters and the viewer can forward to the chapter of interest: Defining the Problem - Recruitment Failure; Salmon, Sturgeon and First Nations; the Boat Kit; You've Caught a Sturgeon; Net Mending; and Stewards of the Sturgeon. The video may be viewed on YouTube.

Each year the NWSRI attempts to secure funding to hire a bycatch monitor within each of the participating Nations. The monitor is a member of the community and is available to explain the program and to help release sturgeon. If you have more questions contact your communities Catch Monitor or the NWSRI.

Your help can make a difference now and for future generations.

If you would like to participate in the Emergency Sturgeon Live Release Boat kit program please contact the NWSRI coordinator at: info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org or the CSTC Fisheries Manager at **250-562-6279**.

The Boat Kit Program is in addition to our research programs that focus on identifying the problem(s) and determining ways to fix the habitat and improve the overall health of the Nechako watershed.

Every fish counts!

To learn more about the boat kit program including the list of tools contained within the boat kit Please Visit Us:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org/research/boat-kit-program

Visit Us on Facebook:

Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative

Emergency Sturgeon Live Release Boat Kit Program for First Nation Fishers



www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org



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

The goal of the boat kit program is to help reduce accidental harm to sturgeon and the sturgeon population as a result of sturgeon bycatch associated with the First Nation gill net fisheries.

First Nation people have lived in harmony with white sturgeon, utilizing and sustaining the population in this system for time immemorial.

The recruitment problems currently facing the Nechako white sturgeon were not caused by the past sustainable harvest or practices of First Nation people.

But the population has become endangered and now every live sturgeon is important to the recovery of the population.

The First Nation Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) salmon, char and lingcod fisheries are known to result in the by-catch of mature, breeding sturgeon.

The FSC fisheries are largely conducted using gill nets. Sturgeon may be accidentally caught in these nets (bycatch).

The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) in partnership with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC), developed an Emergency Sturgeon Live Boat Kit Program.

The Boat Kit Program has three main components:

- (1)** A waterproof kit small enough to remain in the boat at all times and containing all of the tools necessary for a successful live release.
- (2)** A video, Every Sturgeon Counts: Live Release of Gill Netted Sturgeon.
- (3)** An on-site community bycatch monitor that can explain the program, why participation is critical to the future survival of the Nechako white sturgeon, and help release sturgeon caught in a net.

This sturgeon has a radiotag as indicated by the antenna coming out of the underside

