

NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON IN STUART LAKE

Looking out over Stuart Lake from Sowchea Bay, you can't see them, but Nechako White Sturgeon are living in the water. Sturgeon are known to overwinter in Stuart Lake and migrate between here and the Nechako River to spawn.



STURGEON HISTORY

10,000 years ago when the Nechako and Columbia rivers were connected, is thought to be when sturgeon entered this system. Dakelh Elders tell the story of when the Stuart River flowed backwards.

In the 1880's Hudson Bay Company records report daily catches of multiple sturgeon from Stuart Lake, most of which were 3 m long.

In the 1990's it became illegal for anyone to catch and/or keep Nechako White Sturgeon over concerns their numbers were dwindling.

Today, sturgeon in the Nechako River watershed are **endangered** and **recovery** efforts are underway to help bring their numbers back up.

If a sturgeon is caught or encountered, either during the First Nation Food, Social and Ceremonial salmon fishery or by recreational fishers, the sturgeon has to be safely released back into the water and the encounter reported.



If you see a sturgeon, reporting the sighting helps researchers understand the population, which supports recovery.

Ask about the Boat Kit Program: info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org.

It is illegal to kill or keep any part of a sturgeon.

nechakowhitesturgeon.org

Sturgeon Recovery

Nechako White Sturgeon are an endangered species.

The primary human activities that threaten white sturgeon:

- habitat loss
- river regulation
- invasive species introductions
- direct and indirect harvest
- loss of food source
- pollutants

The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) works toward sturgeon recovery. **Visit the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre in Vanderhoof to learn more!**



Sturgeon FACTS!

- they live to 100 years old and can grow over 3 m in length
- a full-sized female can release up to 1,000,000 eggs!
- they have no bones - only cartilage
- they lived during the time of dinosaurs!!
 - their eggs are sticky
 - females spawn every 2-10 years
- males mature as early as 15 years old, and females between 25-40 years old



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THE NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON RECOVERY INITIATIVE

CONTACT NWSRI:

nechakowhitesturgeon.org

info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org

@NWSRI on Facebook • #nechakowhitesturgeon

NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON CONSERVATION CENTRE:

Tours year-round. Call 250-567-6673.