

NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

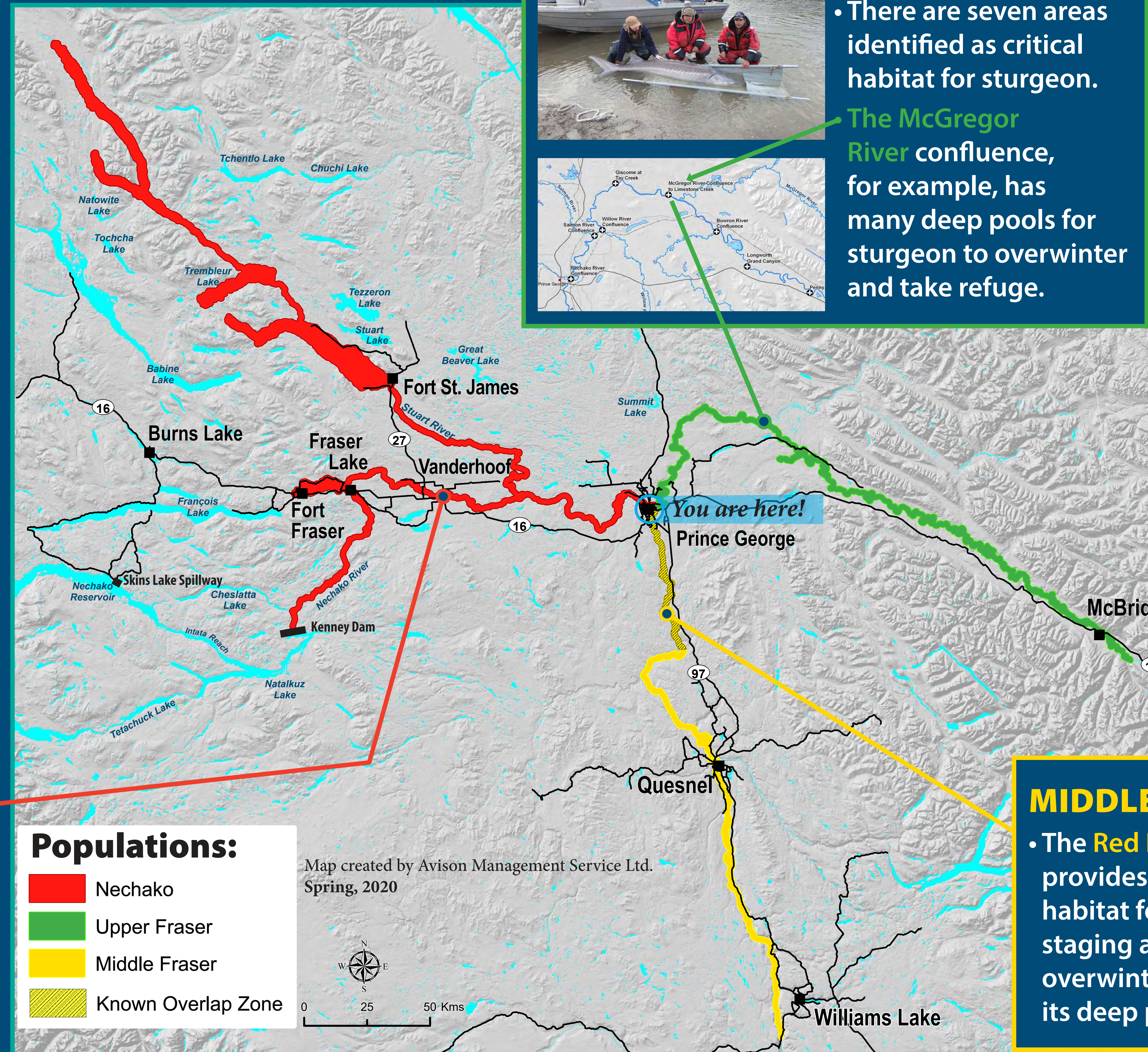
nechakowhitesturgeon.org

White sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) has lived within the Fraser River watershed for over 10,000 years. There are four populations of White Sturgeon in the Fraser River watershed, three of which are Endangered and overlap in range near Prince George.

- **Nechako**
- **Upper Fraser**
- **Middle Fraser**
- **Lower Fraser**

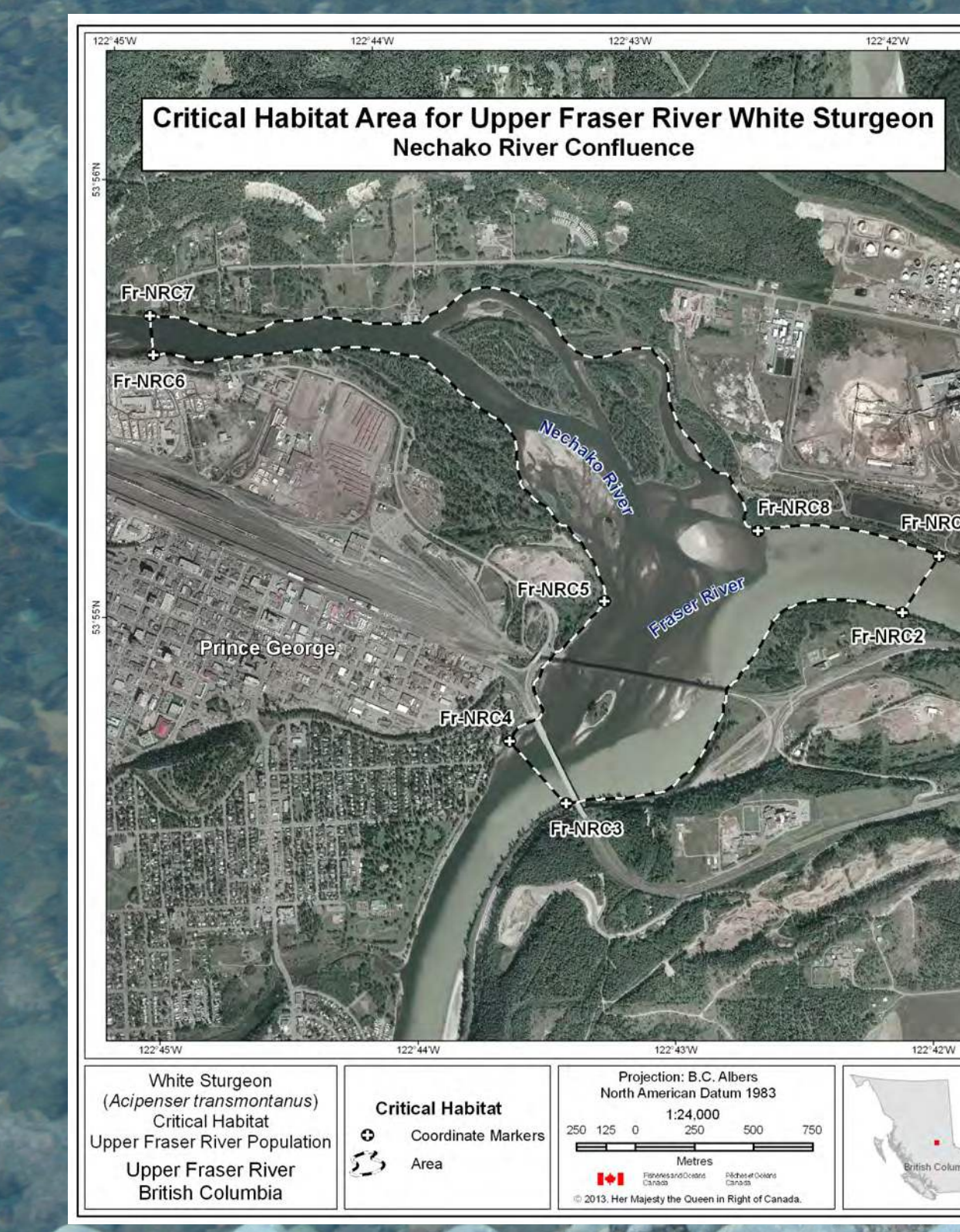


The distributions of three of the populations are shown on the map, along with a zone of overlap, as research has shown that some individual fish move between these boundaries.



You are here... at the Nechako/Fraser confluence, where there is **CRITICAL HABITAT FOR JUVENILE AND ADULT** white sturgeon:

- The area has good habitat for salmon spawning and migration. Salmon are a main food source for sturgeon.



MIDDLE FRASER:

- The **Red Rock** area provides critical habitat for sturgeon staging and overwintering due to its deep pools.



Critical Habitat

Areas that provide:

- refuge from fast flowing water
- food sources like insects, salmon, and fish eggs
- adequate spawning gravels
- structures to hide from predators



Threats to Sturgeon

The primary human activities that threaten white sturgeon include:

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



NECHAKO:

- The only known sturgeon spawning site in the Nechako River is in **Vanderhoof** at Riverside Park.
- The large lakes in the watershed provide overwintering habitat.
- The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Centre is a conservation hatchery supporting the recovery of the sturgeon in this river.

Visit the **Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre** in Vanderhoof to learn more.



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada



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THE NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON RECOVERY INITIATIVE

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