

NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON IN FRASER LAKE

nechakowhitesturgeon.org

Sturgeon Body FACTS!

- they live to 100 years old and can grow over 3 m in length.
 - the 'heterocercal' shaped tail (larger top than bottom) tells us they are strong swimmers that stay close to the bottom.
- their flat head and 4 barbels mean they are primarily bottom feeders.
- their 5 rows of scutes are used for protection.

The Nechako White Sturgeon are found in the waters of the Nechako River watershed - including Fraser Lake!



Sturgeon Recovery

The Federal Species at Risk Act lists Nechako White Sturgeon as an endangered species. The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) works toward sturgeon recovery.

Ways to support sturgeon recovery:

- visit the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre
- protect riparian zones
- donate to the NWSRI!

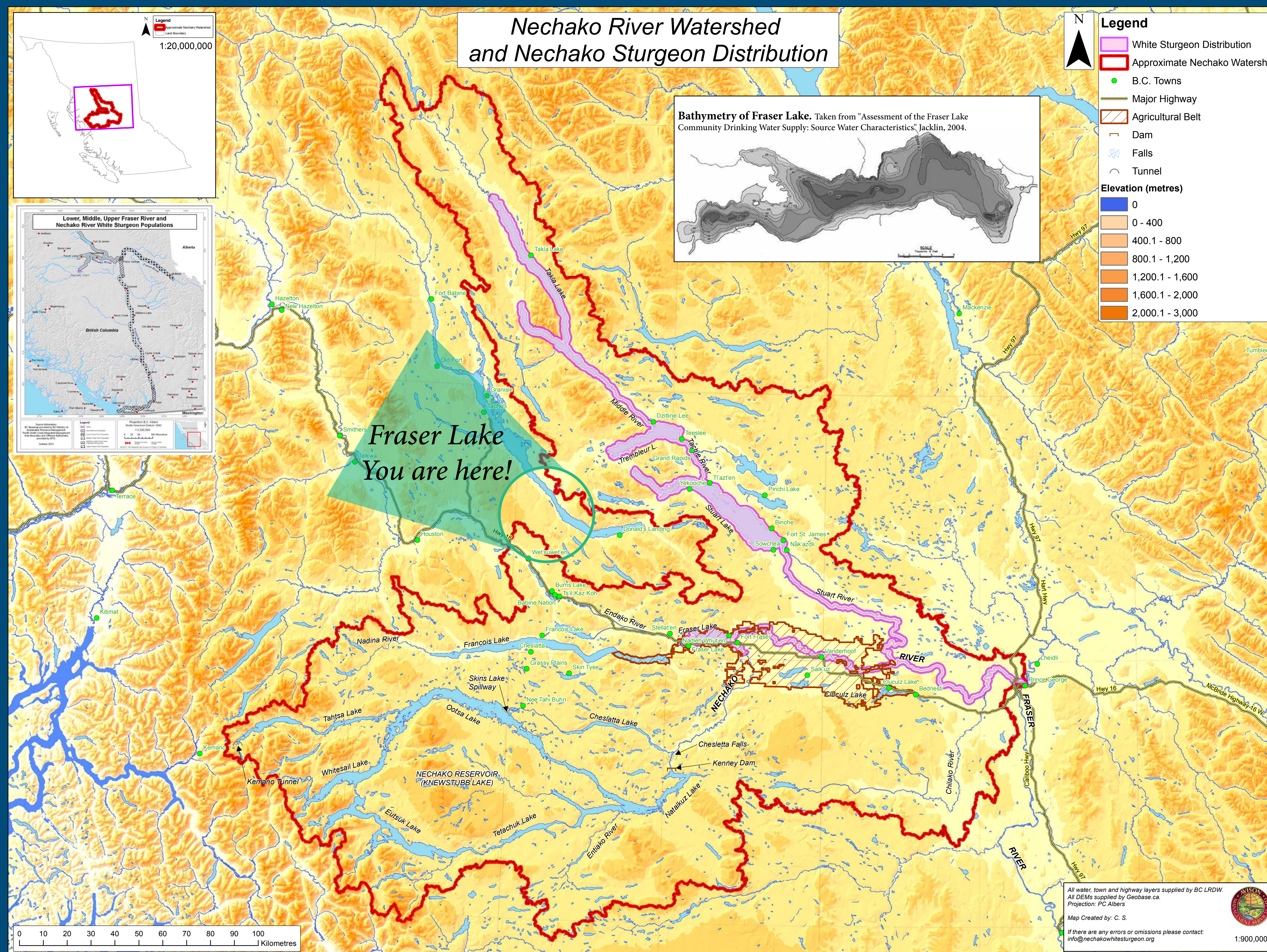
Fraser Lake

SURFACE AREA: 54.6 km²
MEAN DEPTH: 13.5 m

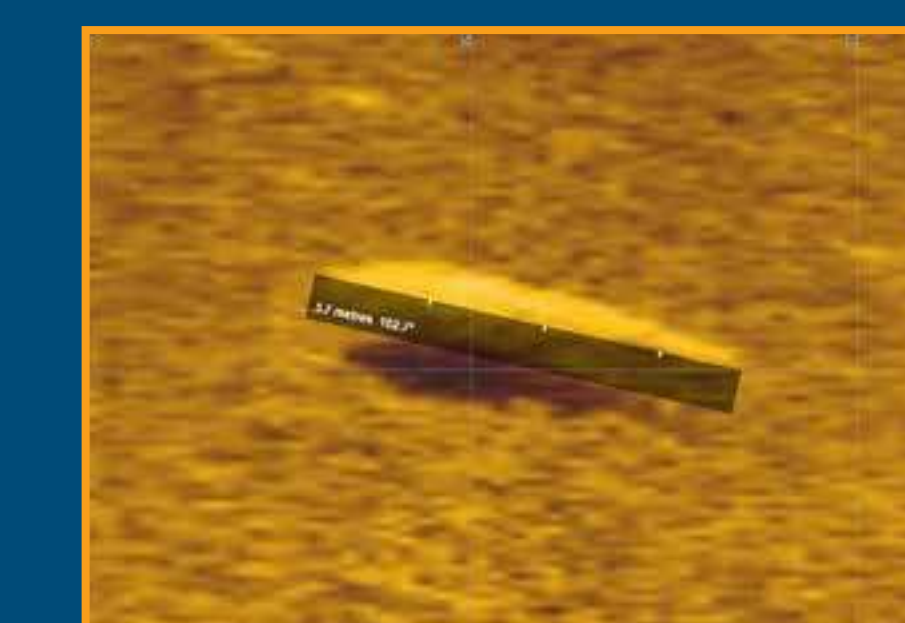
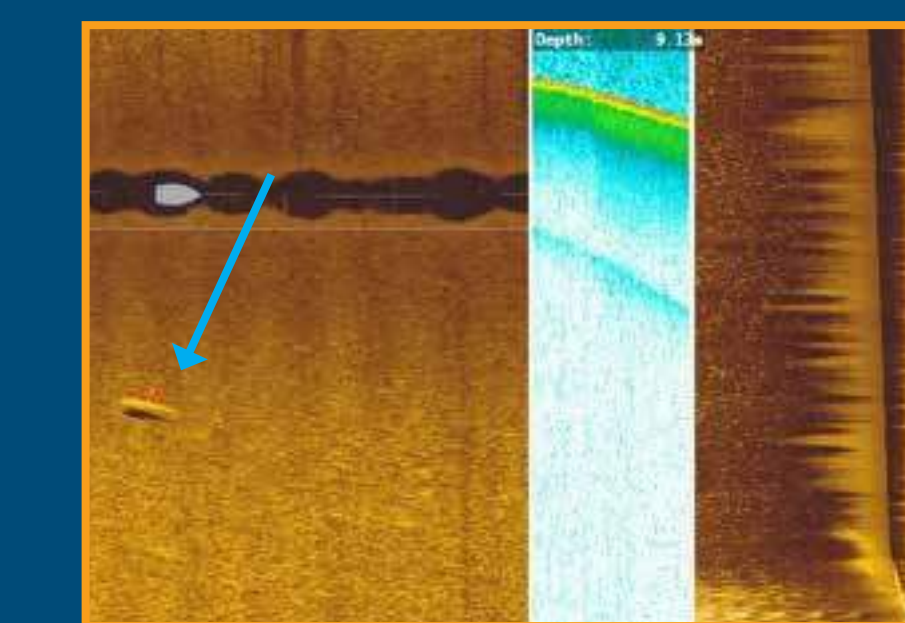
The Nechako River watershed is 52,000 km²! The Fraser Lake sub-basin is 2,261 km² (includes Burns Lake). Fraser Lake empties into the Nechako River via the Nautley River - the shortest river in BC.

During winter Fraser Lake is covered in ice, and sturgeon move to deep areas and become inactive. There are areas in Fraser Lake as deep as 27m!

After winter sturgeon start to feed on other fish species including salmon. Chinook and sockeye salmon migrate through Fraser Lake in the late summer and fall.



Recent imagery shows a ~3m long sturgeon in Fraser Lake at a depth of roughly 9m.



If you accidentally catch a sturgeon!

It is illegal to fish for, keep any part of, or kill a Nechako White Sturgeon. If you catch a sturgeon, take these steps to safely release it:

1. use gloves
2. do not take sturgeon out of the water
3. remove hook if possible, cut line if necessary
4. if safe for the fish, take a photo and estimate the length
5. email the NWSRI