

# NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON IN THE NECHAKO RIVER

[nechakowhitesturgeon.org](http://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.



Nechako White Sturgeon are endangered.



## Sturgeon Recovery

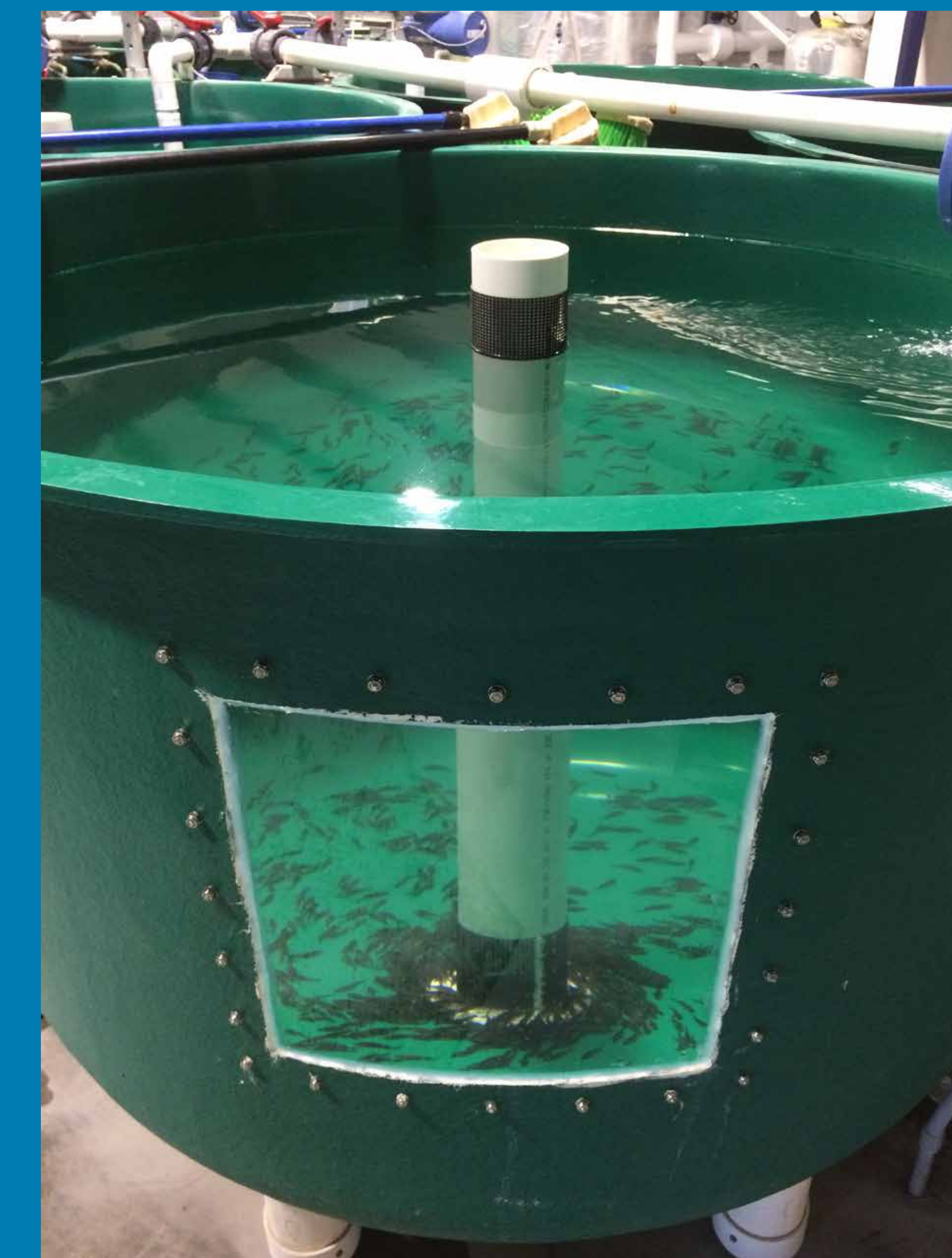
The Federal Species at Risk Act lists Nechako White Sturgeon as an endangered species. The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) works toward sturgeon recovery.

Ways to support sturgeon recovery:

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

## Conservation Fish Culture

The Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre is one of three necessary components of recovery of the Nechako white sturgeon population. This conservation fish culture program helps populate the river while considering genetic diversity of the natural population.

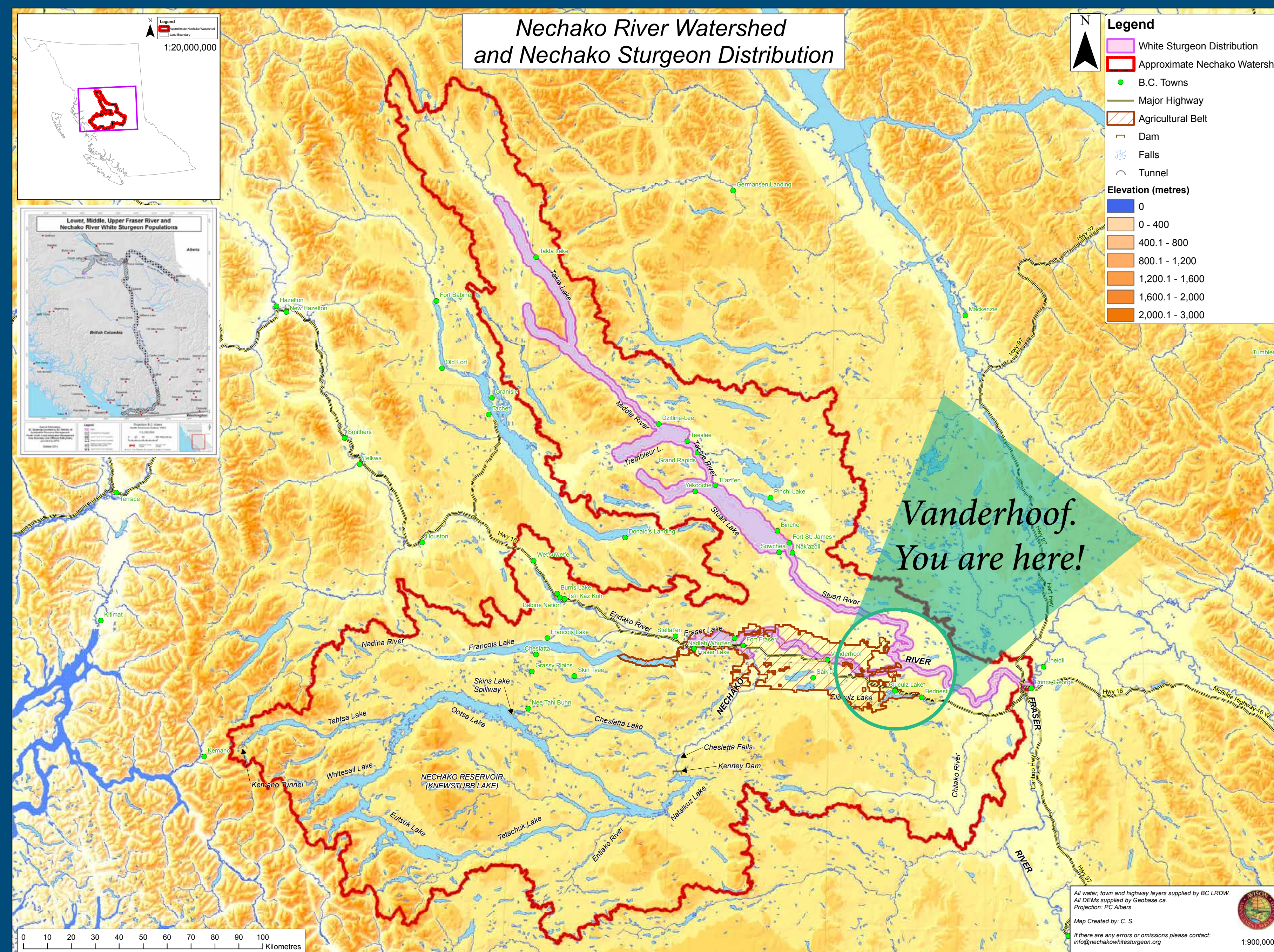


## The Watershed

The Nechako River watershed is 52,000 km<sup>2</sup>! Nechako white sturgeon distribution is shown in pink.

The Nechako River is a controlled river. Water comes from the Nechako Reservoir via the Skins Lake Spillway and the Cheslatta watershed. Kenney Dam holds back the water that forms the reservoir.

The only known spawning area for Nechako White Sturgeon is here, both upstream and downstream of the Burrard Bridge.



## 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. leave sturgeon in the water
3. remove hook if possible, cut line if necessary
4. if it is safe for the fish, take a photo and estimate the length
5. email the NWSRI at [info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org](mailto:info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org)

Tours of the Conservation Centre are available year-round.