

# NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON IN THE STUART WATERSHED

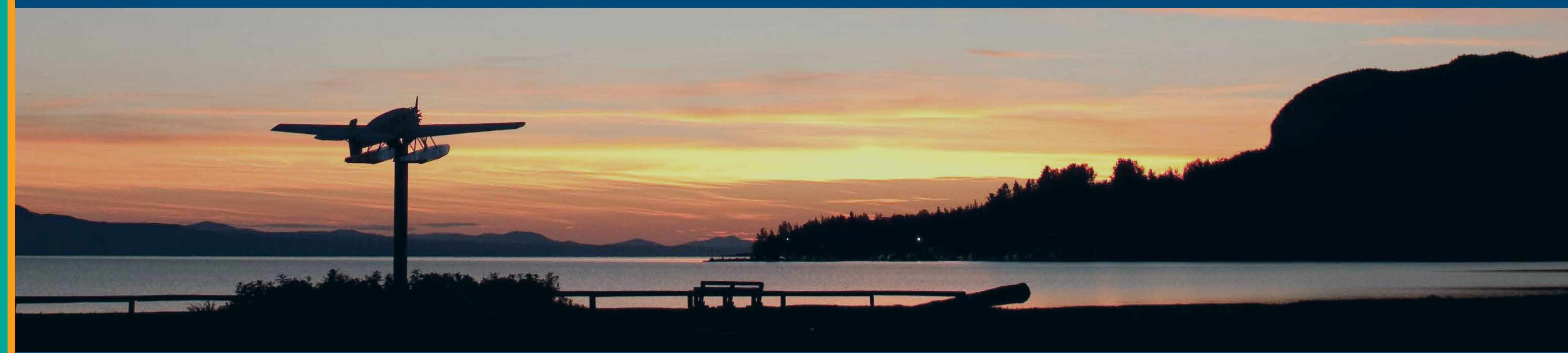
[nechakowhitesturgeon.org](http://nechakowhitesturgeon.org)

## Sturgeon Facts

Sturgeon inhabit large lakes year round and will migrate between lake systems, and the Nechako River.

Sturgeon mouths are on the bottom of their heads and are primarily bottom feeders, but will eat migrating adult salmon.

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!

## Every Sturgeon Counts

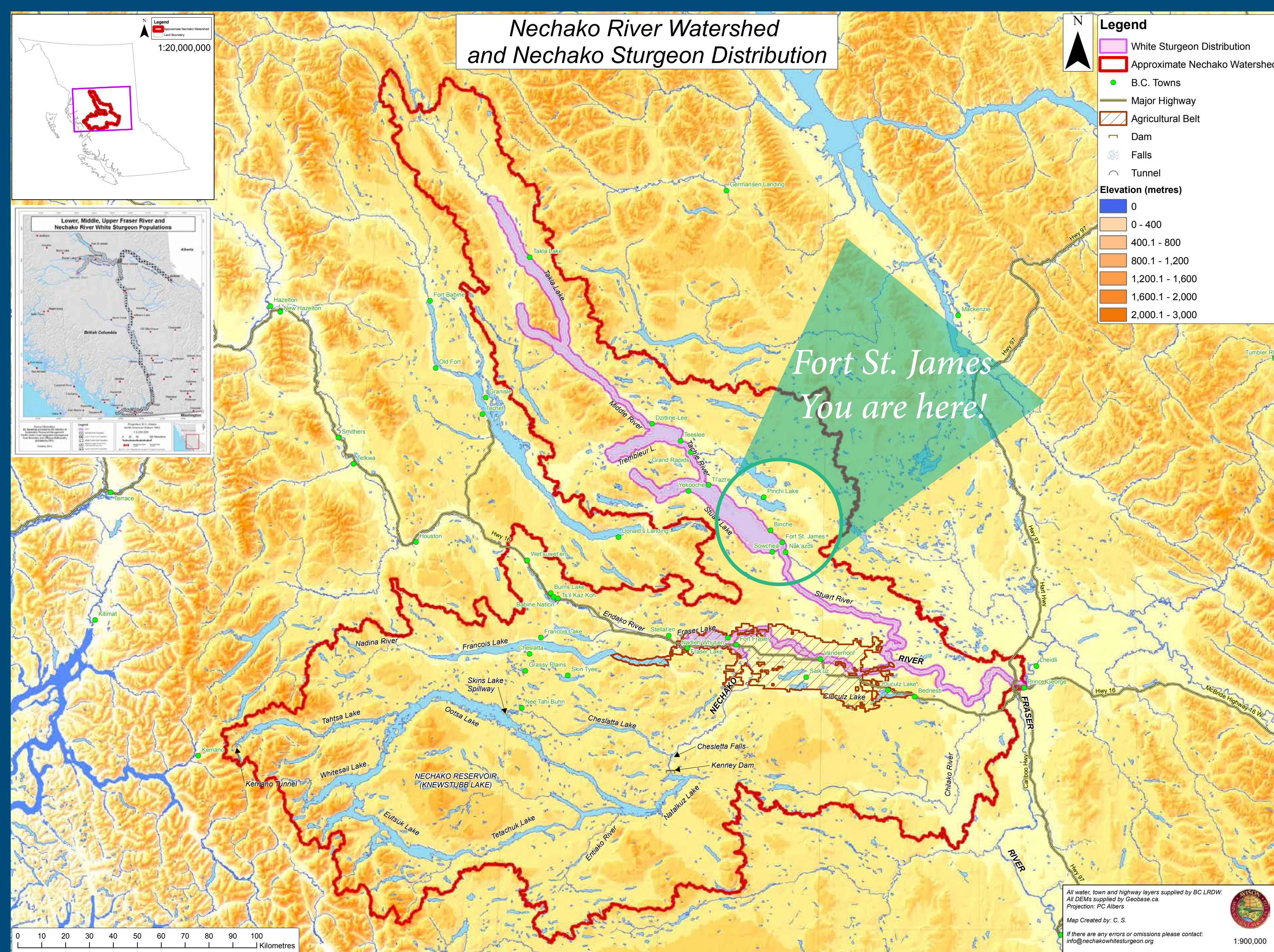
There are very few adults left in the wild and it is critical that no adults are lost from the population accidentally – Every Sturgeon Counts!

The **Emergency Boat Kit Program** promotes the safe release of sturgeon from gill nets used during the First Nation Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery. All families that are active in the fishery are encouraged to participate in this program.

Contact the NWSRI for details.

## The Watershed

Sturgeon have been in this watershed for over 10,000 years. Dakelh Elders tell the story of when 'the river flowed backwards' - after the last glacial period when the Stuart River flowed north and was not part of the Nechako watershed. Today, the Stuart River system flows into the Nechako River and is the largest sub-basin of the Nechako watershed. Sturgeon have been caught and observed in Stuart Lake, Trembleur Lake, and north in Takla Lake.



## 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)



*This adult sturgeon was accidentally caught in a gill net set for salmon in Stuart Lake. It was safely removed from the net using supplies provided in the Emergency Boat Kit.*