

## HISTORY + TIMELINE

Sturgeon are ancient creatures. Nechako White Sturgeon have lived in this watershed for over 10,000 years. Over the past two centuries, environmental changes and increasing pressures on their habitat have led to a dramatic decline in their population, resulting in their classification as an endangered species under the Species at Risk Act. **Follow the timeline.**

## LIFE CYCLE CARVING

Sturgeon have a unique life cycle, unlike more familiar species like salmon. These long-lived creatures spawn multiple times throughout their lives.

Follow their incredible journey from egg to adult, and explore the challenges and support they encounter at every stage.

**How do you fit into their story?**

## HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Sturgeon are massive fish! **Stand beside this painting** and see how you compare—are you as tall as a 15-year-old sturgeon?

Explore the incredible anatomy of a sturgeon and learn how its shape gives us clues about how it feeds, moves, and survives in the wild.

## WHEEL OF LIFE + WALL OF FAME

**Spin the Wheel of Life** and see if you can make it to 100 years old! This fun and interactive game lets you explore the challenges sturgeon face at each stage of life, offering insights into their survival and the threats they encounter.

**Pick your favourite fish** from the many more notable sturgeon showcased on the 'Fish Wall of Fame'!

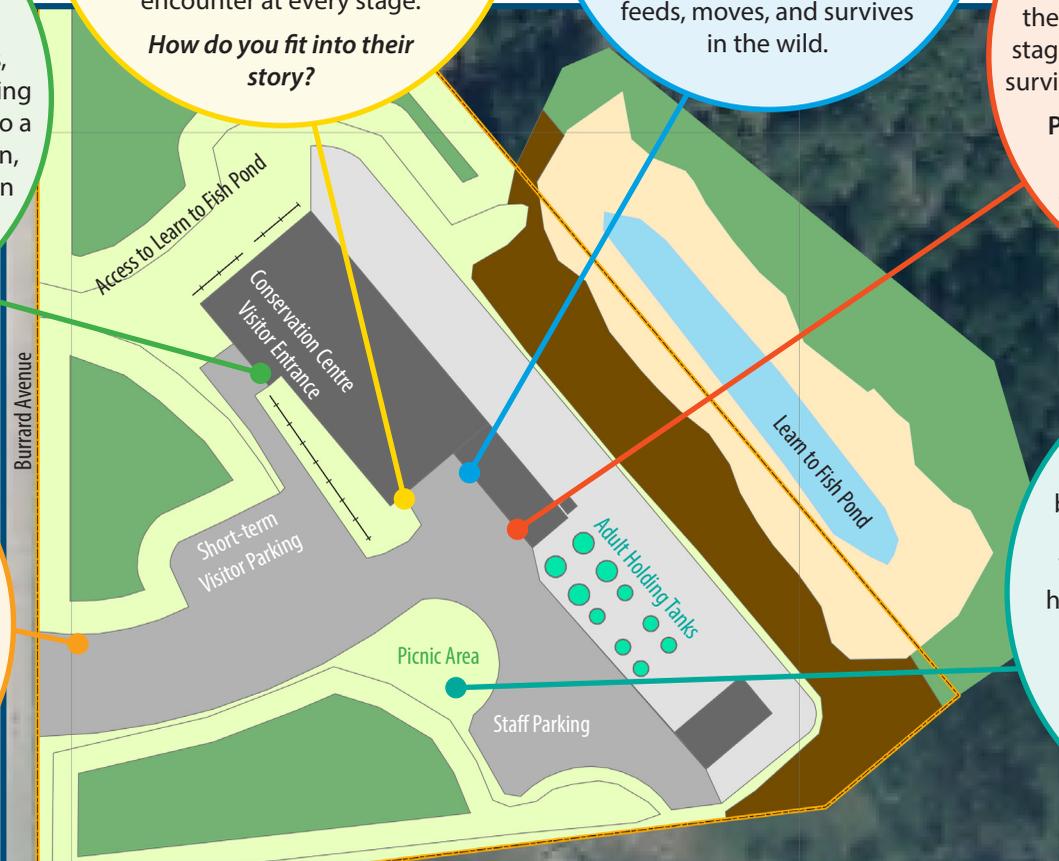
## STURGEON CARVING

Crafted by British Columbian artist Joerg Jung, this intricate spruce carving captures the majestic movement of a large Nechako white sturgeon swimming. As you **gaze at the tail**, can you envision swimming behind her, following her on her journey through the waters?

## EDUCATIONAL SIGNS

The series of educational signs offers insights into the habitat, biology, ecology, and conservation of the endangered Nechako White Sturgeon, highlighting how human activities within the Nechako Watershed—from land use to fish culture and conservation—affect these incredible creatures.

**What actions can you take to support their recovery?**



Located across the road from the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre, **RIVERSIDE PARK** has additional amenities to enjoy your time here: • Nature and cultural interpretive signs along the 1.2km walking path • Bathrooms • Ample parking space • Observation tower over the Nechako River and the sturgeon spawn grounds • Covered picnic area and more!

## WANT TO BOOK A TOUR?

For an in-depth experience, indoor guided tours of the Conservation Centre are available at scheduled times or by appointment. The tour schedule is posted online on the NWSRI website and Facebook page, and at the Visitor Entrance.

PHOTOS... FRONT PANEL: Highlighted by the circle, you can see the stitches made by Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC staff after implanting a radio tag into the body cavity of an adult Nechako White Sturgeon before its release back into the Nechako River. Learn more about radio telemetry and other fascinating topics on the many educational signs throughout your self-guided tour.

MIDDLE PANEL: Nechako White Sturgeon eggs.

LEFT PANE/BELOW: A student releases a hatchery-raised sturgeon into the Nechako River during the annual Juvenile Release Event, held in early June.

For more information about the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative, or to book a tour inside the hatchery please contact us:

[info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org](mailto:info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org)

250-567-6673

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



# Welcome to the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre

## CONSERVATION AT THE CENTRE

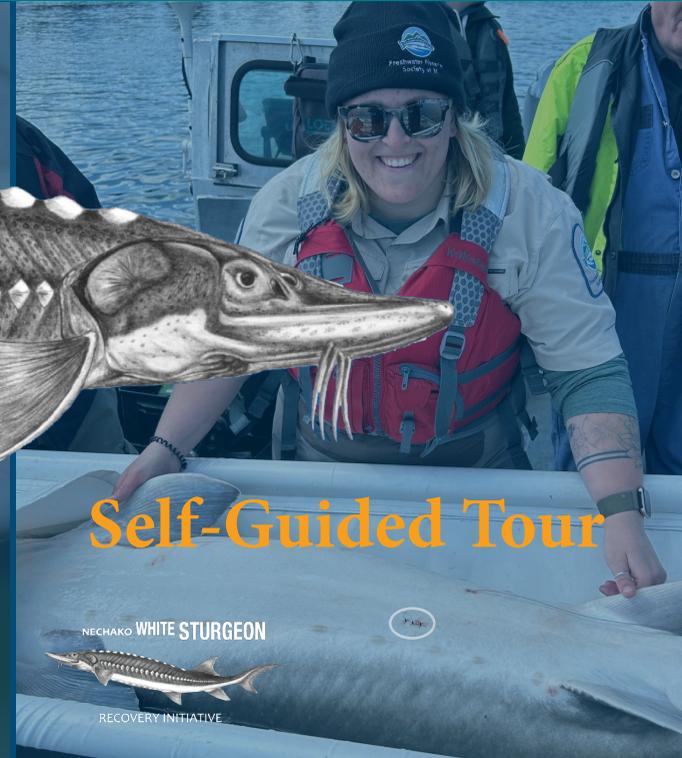
The Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre program focuses on preserving genetic diversity and rebuilding the sturgeon population. While the hatchery isn't a permanent solution, it helps buy time for restoring the natural spawning habitat, which is essential for a self-sustaining population.

Opened in 2014, with a pilot program from 2006-2010, the Conservation Centre spawns adult sturgeon each spring, with the aim to create diverse mating pairs to strengthen the population.

Each year, school children from across the Nechako Watershed help release young sturgeon back into the river. By 2050, these fish will be the first *new* generation since the 1960s to spawn naturally, forming the foundation for a self-sustaining population.



**BIOSECURITY**  
*Biosecurity protocols are in effect at the hatchery. Please obey all signs inside and outside the facility.*



## Self-Guided Tour

The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative would like to thank all our partners and supporters that have contributed to the planning, building and continuing operation of the conservation hatchery program. In particular, we would like to recognize the Province of BC, the District of Vanderhoof, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the District of Vanderhoof, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, and Rio Tinto.

Follow the story of **Anna** during your Self-Guided Tour. This majestic sturgeon, represented in the illustration above by artist Loucas Raptis, was captured in the Nechako River in 2007 — measuring 2.8 m, weighing 147 kg, and estimated at an impressive 80+ years of age!

Learn more about Anna and her species on this Self-Guided Tour at the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre.

