



The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (FFSBC) staff just completed an unbelievably successful week of spawning at the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre where all six mature female sturgeon captured from the river were spawned. The spawning activities started on Tuesday with staff preparing the mature male and female adult sturgeon. After a lot of preparation, planning and some waiting, the first female was spawned Thursday morning at 7:30 AM and the last female was spawned at midnight Thursday evening. Each female's eggs were fertilized with 12 different males creating 72 different families that are now incubating at the hatchery. A continuous rotation of the volunteers -

ranging from provincial government staff to neighbours that were passing by - assisted with the spawning at the hatchery. These volunteers were crucial to the success of the event as FFSBC staff did not have the capacity to take care of all 72 families over the 17 hour spawning period. The eggs are now safely in incubators at the hatchery and will hatch in about 10-11 days. The incubation and early-rearing stages - when the sturgeon larvae begin to feed - are critical periods in the sturgeon's lifecycle and as a result the hatchery staff will continue to be vigilant to ensure their survival.

The FFSBC would like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers that took the time to help us and the Nechako River White Sturgeon:

- Wayne Salewski and Lori Borth**
- Susanne Williamson, FLNRO biologist**
- Staff from the FLNRO Forest District Office, Vanderhoof**
- Staff from Triton Environmental Consulting, Prince George**
- Mayor Gerry Thiessen and Grandsons**

And to the more than 50 individuals from Vanderhoof who helped - some through several spawnings and well into the wee hours of Thursday night.

Final thanks to the hard-working FFSBC staff: Cory Williamson, Mike Manky, BJ Bruder, Kara Varley, Mike Keehn and Marla Zarelli.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 17TH AT NOON TO COME OUT AND JOIN US WITH THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON CONSERVATION CENTRE.