



EVERY STURGEON COUNTS

Boat Kit
Website



EMERGENCY STURGEON LIVE RELEASE BOAT KIT PROGRAM

The Emergency Sturgeon Live Release Boat Kit Program directly supports harm reduction and recovery of the endangered Nechako White Sturgeon population.

The Boat Kit Program, established in 2011, is administered by the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI), a group dedicated to the recovery of the endangered white sturgeon within the Nechako watershed. **Between 2011-2023, 100 sturgeon were reported as by-catch and of those 89 (89%) were released live as part of the Boat Kit Program!**

The goals of this program are to:

Reduce accidental harm to sturgeon and the sturgeon population as a result of sturgeon by-catch associated with gill net fisheries.

Collect data about sturgeon to help understand their movements and biology in the watershed.

The NWSRI will:

Provide Boat Kits to First Nation communities that have gill net fishing as part of their First Nation Food, Social and Ceremonial Salmon Fishery.

Compensate First Nation communities to augment or create a Fisheries Monitor position to locally promote, support, and report on sturgeon by-catch.

How do you use the Boat Kit?

- Pick-up a free Emergency Live Release Boat Kit from your Band office or community's Fisheries Monitor.
- Keep this kit, a small waterproof bag, with you while you are gill net fishing.
- If you accidentally catch a sturgeon, the kit supplies will help you safely release it from the gill net.
- If it's safe, also use kit supplies to measure length, and look for tags on the fish to inform recovery research.
- Fill out the included **form**, either on paper or online, and submit it to the NWSRI with a photo of the fish.

The Boat Kit Program is free. Replacement supplies are provided for free as needed throughout the season. Data collected are important to understand sturgeon biology.

Email, call or text the NWSRI to learn more and to arrange for individual Boat Kits to be delivered to your community: info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org
www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org | Facebook @NWSRI

Reporting sturgeon by-catch will NOT result in any enforcement action, penalties, or restrictions on fishing activities.