

Lesson 3-5: Guest Speakers and Field Trip

Time of Lesson: 1.5 hours

Instruction Objectives: Students can demonstrate an overall understanding of Nechako white sturgeon life history and habitat needs and how these relate to overall survival of the species. Students participate in field trip and/or host guest speakers in classroom. Students can identify First Nations traditions in relation to the Nechako River and the Nechako white sturgeon.

Strategies and Activities: Have local experts attend class to speak in regards to the Nechako white sturgeon (local biologist and First Nations guest speaker), and/or go to Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre for a tour. Discussion about the value the Nechako white sturgeon holds for the students and what it would mean to them if it became extinct. Allow work on Unit Project.

Materials:

- Field Trip: Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Centre in Vanderhoof. Contact the Centre or the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative for details and to book the tour. Extend the tour to a walk along the Nechako River to view the spawning site (just upstream of the bridge).
- Guest Speaker: First Nation speaker (contact NWSRI for contact details or contact local First Nation Band Office directly).
- YouTube Video: *Every Sturgeon Counts - Part 2*
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhrEJUEi-ow>)
- If unable to get to the Recovery Centre, invite local biologist and/or White Sturgeon Recovery Centre coordinator (contact NWSRI for contact details or Contact the Centre or the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative directly) to the classroom.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS: Sturgeon release event (fall 2014 and beyond).

Student Assessment:

- Observation and participation in class discussion and field trip.

Preparation (15 minutes)

Have students prepare 5-10 questions as a class for the guest speaker. Assign students to ask these questions.

During the field trip and/or class guest speaker have the students take notes. Encourage students to include what they learn in their Unit Project.

Field Trip to the Sturgeon Facility in Vanderhoof (1-1.5 hours)

The Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Centre is located in Vanderhoof. It is where the Nechako white sturgeon hatchery program occurs.

Before heading into the Recovery Centre, be sure to review the rules of conduct:

- no touching unless instructed by the facilitator
- ask questions with hands up
- walk do not run
- stay with your group, do not wander away from the group

Optional Activity

After the tour, walk down to the Nechako River and follow the walking path under the bridge and upstream until you reach a sign that states "Sturgeon Spawning Habitat". This is the location where sturgeon have been recorded spawning. Start a discussion.

Ask

Describe what this site looks like. Does it look like good sturgeon spawning habitat? *Fast flowing, murky, gravel substrate, deep in sections.*

What potential human impacts put this site at risk of pollution, disturbance or alteration? *Boating, boat engines, pollution from roads and bridge, run-off from residential and farm land etc.*

Class Guest Speaker (1 hour)

Have ready on the SMARTboard the YouTube Video: *Every Sturgeon Counts - Part 2* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhrEJUEi-ow>): **Salmon, Sturgeon and First Nations** 4:10 to 16:40. This section of the video focuses on local First Nation culture and history with the Nechako River, salmon, Stuart Lake, and Nechako white sturgeon. Play this to augment the guest speaker if need be.

Invite a local First Nation speaker into the classroom to speak about the importance and traditions around sturgeon and First Nations (contact NWSRI for contact details or your local First Nation Band office directly). Have them speak about the salmon fishery and the by-catch of sturgeon.

As well, encourage the guest speaker to talk about the relationship between First Nation traditions and the plants and animals found within the riparian zone (hunting, fishing, medicinal plants, trapping etc.).