Unit 3: Nechako White Sturgeon Habitat & Food
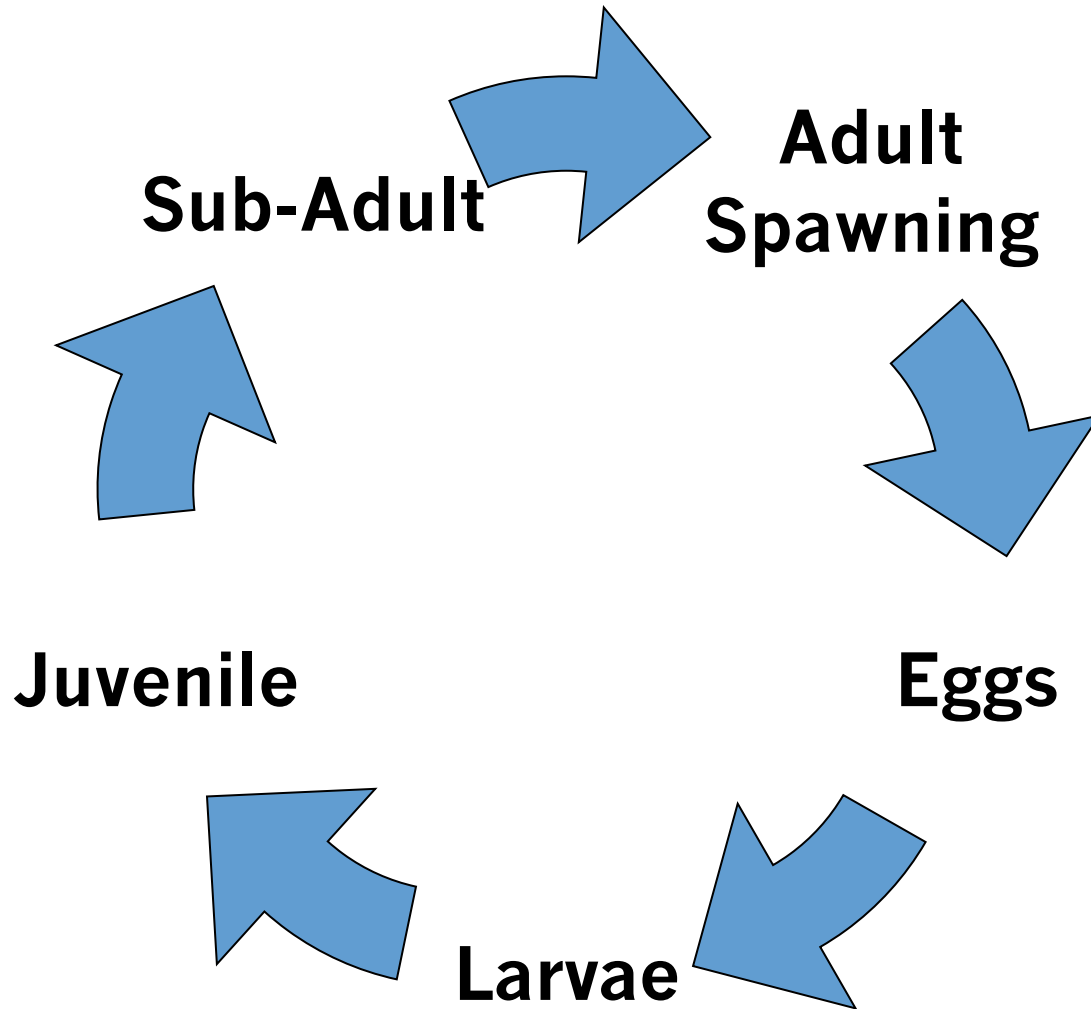
Sturgeon Life Cycle

What are the specific habitat and food needs for each life cycle stage?

Sub-Adult

Adult
Spawning

Juvenile

Eggs

Larvae

Eggs

Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks (little silt!).

- Fast flowing water.

- Relatively deep water (ideal for spawning adults).

- Water temperature between 14-18°C.

Food

- What are your ideas?

WHITE STURGEON
RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Eggs

Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks (no silt!).

- Fast flowing water.

- Relatively deep water (ideal for spawning adults).

- Water temperature between 14-18°C.

Food

- Yolk in the egg – they are developing inside the egg.

Larvae

Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks.

- Fast flowing water.

- Turbid water – murky. They can hide better from predators in murky water and by hiding in the gravel and rocks.

Food

- What are your ideas?

Larvae

Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks.

- Fast flowing water.

- Turbid water – murky. They can hide better from predators in murky water and by hiding in the gravel and rocks.

Food

- for the first 12 days they feed off yolk sac.

- After 12 days they eat macro-invertebrates!

Macro-invertebrates

Macro: small, but can be seen by the naked eye.

Invertebrate: has no backbones but has an exoskeleton (protection on the outside of body).

Juveniles

Habitat

- Deep water.

- Slow back eddies.

- Cool areas.

- Fast flowing areas.

Food

- What are your ideas?

Juvenile

Habitat

- Deep water.

- Slow back eddies.

- Cool areas.

- Fast flowing areas.

Food

- Benthic invertebrates (benthic means on the bottom).

- Small fish, such as sculpin, and fish eggs.

Larval and juvenile sturgeon eat invertebrates.

The type of invertebrates found in a river depends on the amount of pollution in the water.

Here is a scale of invertebrates you find in a healthy creek verses unhealthy creek.

Healthy   **In-between**   **Un-healthy**

snails

caddis fly

Water beetle

Dragonfly

leech

WHITE STURGEON
RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Adult

Habitat

- Deep water.

- Slow back eddies.

- Cool areas.

- Fast flowing areas.

- Turbid water (for spawning).

- Lakes.

Food

- What are your ideas?

WHITE STURGEON
RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Adult

Habitat

- Deep water.

- Slow back eddies.

- Cool areas.

- Fast flowing areas.

- Turbid water (for spawning).

- Lakes.

Food

- Large fish, such as salmon and trout.