

# NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

## VIDEO 2 - SPAWNING TO RELEASE STAGE

This video gives a general overview of the process of harvesting eggs and milt, the life cycle and the Sturgeon Release Event.

**Total Length: 10:31 minutes.** It is broken into several sections. Below are some key questions to think about in each section of the video.

**Spawn Timing and Testing:** 00:00 to 02:00

- Why would you hard boil the sturgeon eggs before cutting them?
- What is a hormone?

**Harvesting Eggs and Milt for Fertilization:** 02:00 to 04:14

- How many eggs can a female sturgeon produce at one spawning?
- What happens to sturgeon eggs that are not released at spawning?
- Why are sturgeon eggs sticky?
- If a female sturgeon started spawning at age 40 and lived to age 100, how many eggs will she have produced and spawned in her life time?

**Family:** 04:14 to 04:58

- What is a maternal family?
- Draw a family tree if there was one female and 3 males at the hatchery?

**Life Cycle:** 04:58 to 07:22

- Sturgeon eggs black and salmon eggs are pink - can you think of why they there is a difference (think about how each species spawns)?
- Explain the life cycle of sturgeon and compare to that of a typical Pacific salmon species - what are the differences and similarities and why?
- For support material and explore this topic further look at the [Life Cycle](#) presentation and do [Lesson 3-2 \(Life Cycle\)](#) from the Sturgeon Curriculum.

**Sturgeon Release Event:** 07:22 to 10:31

- What is your favourite memory from the Sturgeon Release Event?
- Go to the [Where is My Fish](#) website and find your fish!

## DEFINITIONS

Throughout the video, the narrator uses scientific language. Here are some definitions to support your understanding.

**Germinal Vesicle:** The enlarged nucleus of the egg before it is mature and available for spawning.

**LHRHA:** Pituitary hormone that induces the release of eggs.

**Docile:** Calm.

**Vent:** The external opening of a fish that is used for both excretion and reproduction.

**Milt:** Sperm.

**Maternal Family:** Offspring related to one mother.

**More available at:**

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

[Facebook @NWSRI](#)

## FURTHER EXPLORING:

Thousands of young sturgeon have been released into the Nechako River since 2006 in an effort to increase the number of sturgeon and help produce a healthy population of sturgeon for the future. Many of these young sturgeon were released by students.

[Start here](#) and find the fish you released, or any one of the sturgeon released since 2006. Next, think about how big that sturgeon would be today, and then about where it could have traveled to in the Nechako watershed in that time. Write a story about this fish including what risks and threats it would have faced since its release.