

# NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

## VIDEO 3 - STURGEON IN THE WILD

This video explains where sturgeon are found naturally in the Nechako Watershed, their spawning habitat and habits, as well as their movements within and outside the watershed.

**Total Length: 7:51 minutes.** It is broken into several sections. Below are some key questions to think about in each section of the video.

**Watershed:** 00:00 to 02:25

*This section of the video provides a quick explanation of what a watershed is and some facts and figures related to the Nechako Watershed and sturgeon.*

- What is a watershed?
- How do human activities impact a watershed?

**Spawning Beds:** 02:25 to 03:14

- What factors have impacted the spawning grounds for sturgeon?
- Explain broadcast spawning and how changes to spawning ground sediment could impact this method of spawning. (see also 04:21-04:39)

**Restoration:** 03:14 to 04:21

- What is good spawning habitat?
- What are different methods that can be used to restore spawning habitat?
- Why is there risk to Nechako White Sturgeon?

**Fertilization:** 04:21 to 04:39

*This section offers an explanation of broadcast spawning.*

**Sturgeon Food:** 04:39 to 05:29

- What are the main food sources for sturgeon at their different life stages?

**How Sturgeon Eat:** 05:29 to 06:08

*This section explains in detail how sturgeon eat, and shows video of sturgeon eating.*

- Explain how sturgeon feed. Do any other species feed in this same manner?

**Where are the Sturgeon:** 06:08 to 07:51

- What is the distribution of Nechako White Sturgeon?
- Why do you think sturgeon move downstream and out of the Nechako River?

## DEFINITIONS

Throughout the video, the narrator uses scientific language. Here are some definitions to many of the terms.

### INQUIRY OPPORTUNITY:

*Expand on these definitions to learn more about what they mean and how they relate to fisheries research.*

**Broadcast Spawning:** Releasing eggs and milt into the water column to be fertilized.

**Extirpated:** A species that is no longer found in a particular area where it persisted naturally previously.

**Benthic:** Found on the bottom.

**Barbels:** Sensory appendages on the lower part of the sturgeon's head that feels and detects food.

### More available at:

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

[Facebook @NWSRI](#)

## CLASSROOM DISCUSSION:

**This video touched on sturgeon spawning habitat, human land use impacts, sturgeon spawning method. Using what you know about sturgeon egg physiology, discuss the following questions as a class:**

What are the linkages between broadcast spawning, sturgeon egg physiology and habitat?  
Why is there an increased risk to sturgeon because of their limited spawning locations?

