

NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

VIDEO 4 - PREDATION

This video goes into depth about predation on sturgeon at different life stages. The video also explains a study on otter predation on sturgeon in the Nechako River. This gives a great local example of meaningful research.

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.

Predators at Life Stages: 00:00 to 00:50

- What are the main predators at each life stage?

Predation Impact on Conservation Program: 00:50 to 02:15

- What factors have impacted the spawning grounds for sturgeon?
- Why is it important to understand predation on sturgeon?

Predation Study: 02:15 to 05:50

- How do you identify a latrine site?
- How do you know otters have fed on a sturgeon?

Data related to Predation Study: 05:50 to 06:33

- What do the numbers of PIT tags found tell us about the impacts on sturgeon?

Other Predators: 06:33 to 09:18

- Name some of the other animal that prey on sturgeon.
- How have humans impacted sturgeon numbers?
- When did restrictions on harvesting and fishing for sturgeon come about?
- What other human actions have impacted sturgeon success?
- What proportion of sturgeon that have been released from the hatchery program are known to have been eaten by otters? How reliable do you think this number is and why?

Additional resources to support this video include:

[History of Nechako White Sturgeon - Timeline](#)

[Habitat and Humans Lesson 2-4](#)

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.

Spawning Success: When there is natural spawning in the river that produces sturgeon.

Predation: When an animal is eaten by another animal.

Latrine: Specific location used by animals (in this case otters) to play and excrete.

Scat: Excrement or poop.

PIT Tags: Passive Integrated Transponder - see the [worksheet about PIT Tags](#)

More available at:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org

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INQUIRY ACTIVITY:

This video goes into detail about the impacts of predation - from all levels and at all life stages - on sturgeon. As a class or as individual inquiry projects, explore further and expand on these two concepts:

How human actions in the watershed over the last 100 years have had a confounding impact on sturgeon survival and success?

How do you think understanding the amount of predation on sturgeon will influence conservation strategies for sturgeon moving forward? What further conservation projects can you think of moving forward?

What was involved in developing the restrictions on harvesting and fishing of Nechako white sturgeon?

