



Emergency Sturgeon Release Boat Kit Program

DATA FORM



Nechako white sturgeon are an endangered species that live in the large lakes and rivers of the Nechako River watershed. Sturgeon caught in a gill net during the FSC fishery can cause damage or death to the fish, as well as damage gill nets. The Emergency Sturgeon Release Boat Kit Program provides tools and training to fisher families on how to release a sturgeon safely from a gill net, saving the fish's life and the net from excess damage. Participation by fisher families throughout the watershed is a key step to sturgeon recovery and success during the fishery.

IF A STURGEON IS IN YOUR GILL NET

1. Put on **gloves** to minimize the risk of cutting yourself.
2. Gently **secure** the sturgeon, using the tail rope, to keep you and the sturgeon safe from further injury. **Turning the sturgeon on its back/flipping it over helps to calm the sturgeon.**
3. Carefully **cut/untangle** the webbing off of the fish. Be careful to:
 - Avoid the sharp scutes, especially on smaller sturgeon.
 - Avoid touching the sturgeon's barbels and gills because they can be easily damaged.
 - Keep the sturgeon in the water if possible as this is critical for their survival.
4. Check the sturgeon for **tags/missing scutes**. Take a **picture** of the sturgeon! Please email the photo to info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org.
5. Fill in this **data form** as much as possible.
6. Gently let the sturgeon go and **observe** how it swims away.

TIPS

- At the beginning of each fishing season, please **watch the Every Sturgeon Counts video** (www.youtube.com search for Every Sturgeon Counts) to get acquainted with this program.
- **Check gill nets often.** The longer a sturgeon is stuck in a gill net, the higher the chance the net will be damaged and the sturgeon will die.
- **Contact your By-Catch Monitor** if you are unsure of how to fill out this form, on how to release a sturgeon, if you are missing any parts of your release kit, or if you have questions about this program.

DATA FORM (PLEASE FILL OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE)

Fisher/Fisher Family (optional): _____

By-Catch Monitor: _____

Gear: Gill Net Other _____

Date/Time Set: _____ Date/Time Pulled: _____

Water Body: _____

Caught as: Tangled in Net Rolled in Net Tangled and Rolled Other _____

Removal: Untangled fish Cut net Fish Escaped on its own Other _____

Damage to Net: None Minor Moderate Major Unrepairable

Injury to Sturgeon: None Minor (eg. net marks) Moderate Major (eg. open cuts) Dead

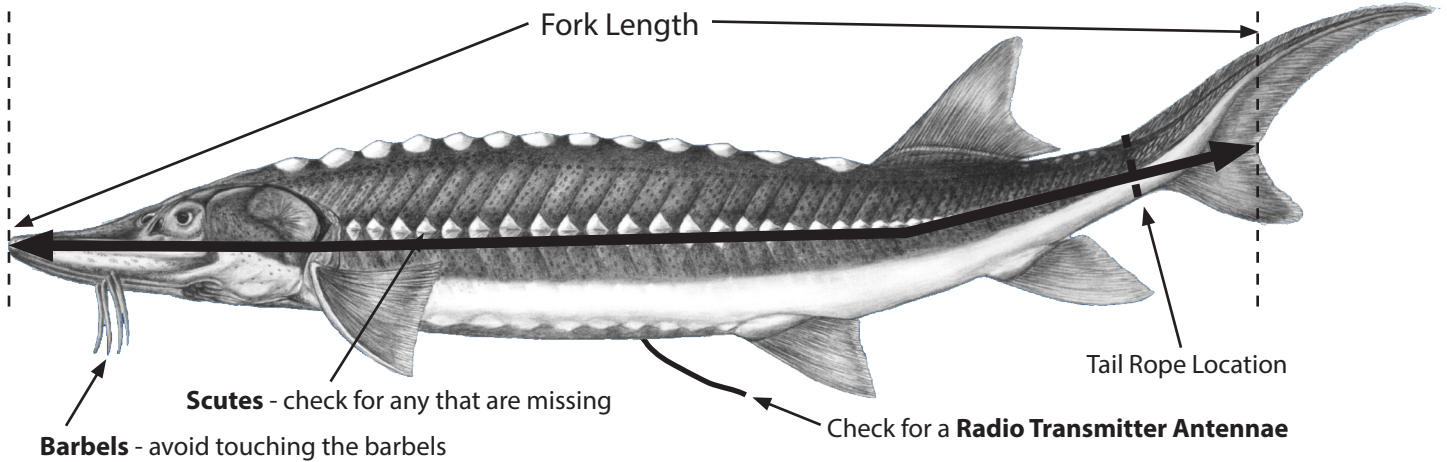
If the sturgeon is found dead, please report the fish to the by-catch monitor immediately.

FLIP OVER



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DATA FORM CONTINUED (PLEASE FILL OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE)

Fork Length: _____

Taken from the centre of the curvature of the snout, along the lateral line, to the fork of the tail. NOTE: Pull the fabric tape taut but not tight. The fish's body should not be altered by the tape when measuring.

Missing Scute: No Yes

If yes **SIDE:** Right Left **SCUTE #** (counting from head to tail): _____

Fin Cuts: No Yes If yes:

Fin Tip Right Fin Tip Left • Fin Base Right Fin Base Left

Radio Transmitter Antennae: No Yes

If yes and have a receiver **RADIO FREQUENCY:** _____

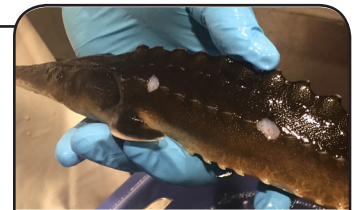
PIT Tag: No Reader

If have a PIT Tag Reader No PIT tag Yes PIT tag # _____

Behaviour on Release: Swam away vigorously Slow to swim away Needed to be Revived

Other: _____

Comments: eg. cuts, red fins, etc. _____



MISSING SCUTES

Check the sides of the sturgeon for any missing scutes. Record the side and scute number(s) (from head to tail).

HOW TO REVIVE

If the sturgeon is not active, hold the sturgeon in the water and move it back and forth to move water across the gills.

To replenish your kit or get more kits, please contact info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org.

Please submit this form to your By-Catch Monitor or to Christina Ciesielski at: cciesielski@cstc.bc.ca or 250-562-6279

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