



# 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](mailto: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](http://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

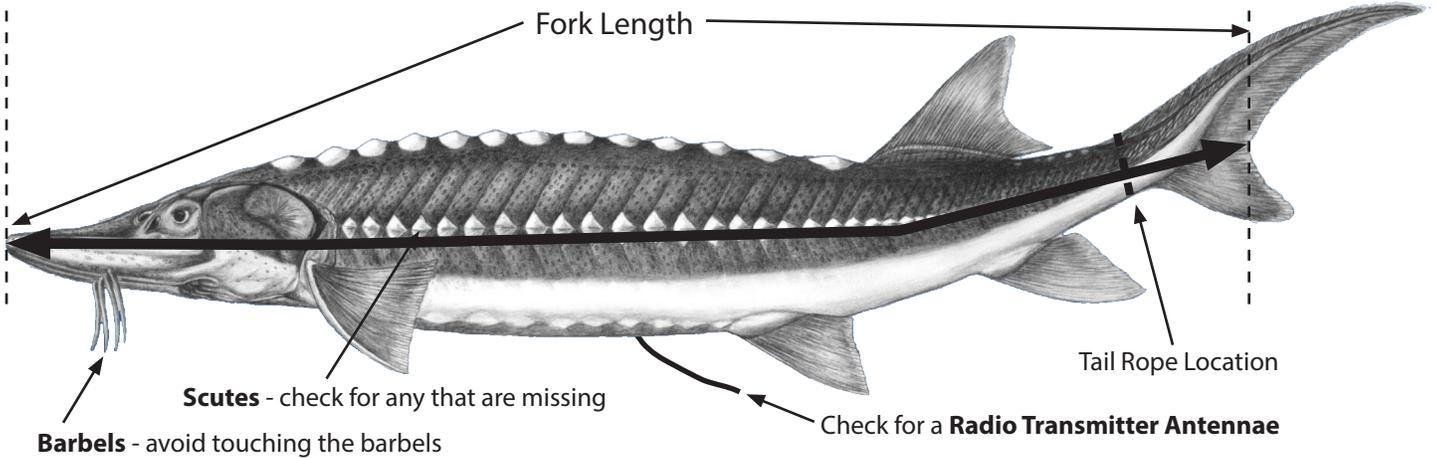
If the sturgeon is found dead, please report the fish to the by-catch monitor immediately.

**FLIP OVER**



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## DATA FORM



### 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

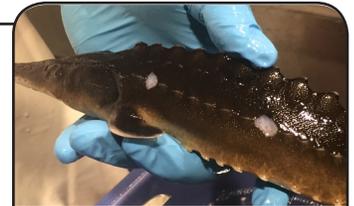
**PIT Tag:**  No Reader

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](mailto:info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org).

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

This project was undertaken with part of the financial support provided by the Government of Canada through the Federal Department of the Environment's Habitat Stewardship Program. Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada agissant par l'entremise du ministère fédéral de l'Environnement.