

What is a PIT Tag?

A PIT tag is used by researchers to:

- Identify individual fish
- Help to track movements, growth, survival of those individual fish

A PIT tag is **small** and **doesn't need batteries** to work (passive). Each tag contains a **unique multi-digit code** (to keep track of individuals). The code is displayed when a PIT tag is activated by a **PIT tag Reader**.

Because they are small (1-2 cm), they can be placed into small fish and other animals. PIT tags are implanted directly into the body of a sturgeon, using a special needle.

Because PIT tags don't need batteries, they last forever. If a sturgeon is **eaten**, the PIT tag will end up in the animal that ate it, and then pooped out!

Every sturgeon that is caught or raised at the hatchery gets a PIT tag. Any sturgeon released by students at the Juvenile Release Event can check on their fish using their unique PIT tag number (or the fish or student's name). Check on yours!

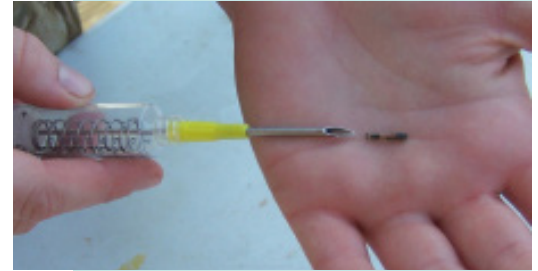
Each year college and high school students help to tag young sturgeon at the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre.

There are PIT tags in the Sturgeon School Kit, available to classrooms!



This is a larger **Radio-tag** getting implanted into a larger young sturgeon. Radio-tags have a battery and only last from 1-8 years depending on the size. Fish need to be 'put to sleep' to perform the surgery needed to implant the radio-tag.

P - Passive
I - Integrated
T - Transponder



Special needle for implanting PIT tags.

PIT tag found in otter scat.



Tagging juvenile sturgeon.



Tagged sturgeon ready to be released.

What other animals do humans use PIT tags to keep track of?

More available at:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org/education
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