

GRADE 4-7 2020-2021 STURGEON + CALENDAR

EXPLORE INTERACTION BETWEEN SPECIES IN THE WATERSHED ON THE SAME CALENDAR. **SMARTBOARD** - Click on the **LINKS** for more! **ON YOU CLASSROOM WALL** - Add your own events and projects on this calendar!

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30	31		

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30					

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31					1	2
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March 2021

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May 2021

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July 2021

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Highlighted Calendar Dates/Activities/Links

September 8: First day of school! Put up your calendar and bookmark it on your Browser!

September 21: Chinook salmon runs are in full swing by now. These fish are an important food source for sturgeon. Plan a field trip to the Stellako, Nautley, Stuart or Nechako Rivers to see spawning salmon. Compare the life cycles of sturgeon and salmon.

September 27: BC Rivers Day! What is happening in your community?

September 28: Invertebrates play an important role in the river ecosystem and riparian zone. Use the invertebrate cards from the Sturgeon Kit, or use the Nature Guide and take a field trip to a creek to get a closer look at aquatic insects.

October 5: Bears are now feeding on the spawned salmon. Learn more about biodiversity and these interactions.

October 11-24: All hatchery sturgeon are getting PIT tags implanted this month. Read about 'Cupcake' to understand how PIT tags help researchers.

November 9: Researchers have completed their fall Juvenile Monitoring program. Check the Where is My Fish website to see if any fish you or your school have released were recaptured this fall and where!

November 15-21: The water temperature in the hatchery is starting to lower to match temperatures in the river. Feeding slows or may even stop! Watch Video 1 and the Culturist worksheet to learn more.

November 23: Although young sturgeon have scutes to protect them, they are still vulnerable to predators. Watch Video 4, and the sturgeon anatomy lesson to learn about predation.

December 2: Sturgeon are now overwintering. It's a good time to think about the history of sturgeon and their influence on First Nations - 'Unel'tsoo'.

January 4: Welcome back to school! Get thinking about sturgeon again - watch Every Sturgeon Counts then talk about what you found important.

January 18: Sturgeon are not active in the winter, but what mammals are active when it is cold? Have a look at the Nature Guide for ideas for our region.

February 9: Sturgeon researchers are planning their summer research projects. Can you think of a project? To get started use the 'Day in the life of..'

March 1: Winter is slowly coming to an end and sturgeon will start migrating to the spawning grounds soon. Review the map of the watershed and talk about sturgeon migration and land uses within their distribution.

April 8: This month the water will start to warm up. Sturgeon become active and want to feed. Watch Video 2 to review the life cycle, sturgeon habitat and food and to get ready for the Sturgeon Release.

April 18-24: Crews are preparing to (1) release sturgeon into the Nechako, (2) capture adult sturgeon for this year's brood program. Watch Video 1 and read about 'Anna' to get excited!

May 7: Juvenile Sturgeon Release Event.

May 9: Watch for buoys and boats on the river - they are checking for wild spawned sturgeon eggs. Many recovery programs occur at this time of year. Follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

May 9-22: Spawning at the hatchery and the river! Check-in with hatchery staff to see if your class can watch them collect sturgeon eggs for spawning. Review Video 2 again about how staff can tell when a female sturgeon is ready to spawn.

June 1: Plan a storm-drain painting day with your class in your community.

June 7: As young sturgeon begin to hatch, they feed on micro-organisms and aquatic invertebrates. Review how sturgeon eat in Video 3 and link that to what you know about aquatic invertebrates.

June 21: Remind your students to tell their parents to take them, friends and family to the hatchery for a tour or to any of the places where there are Interpretive signs. As well, here are important dates to think about over the summer...

June 27-July 3: Sturgeon have hatched into a yolk-sac larvae and then free-swimming larvae. Read about 'Stuart' the larval sturgeon!

July 11-17: Most of the eggs that were fertilized in May will now be fully formed juvenile sturgeon at roughly 3cm in length! What do they eat?

July 19: The early Stuart River sockeye salmon run may have started. Adult salmon are an important food source for adult sturgeon. Use the Nature Guide to learn more.

August 1 onward: Check the website for exact dates and times of tours at the hatchery, as well as other sturgeon related events over the summer.

BIG IDEAS!

- ✓ How species respond to and interact in their environment
- ✓ Survival, reproductive systems
- ✓ Diversity of living things

WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN...

■ Sturgeon
 ■ Salmon
 ■ Mammals
 ■ Invertebrates
■ School Activity Days
 ■ Community events

October 2020

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December 2020

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February 2021

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April 2021

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June 2021

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August 2021

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada

QUICK LINKS

Video 1 - Conservation Centre

Video 2 - Spawning to Release Stage

Video 3 - Sturgeon in the Wild

Video 4 - Predation

Sturgeon Curriculum Page Grade 4-7

Nature Guide to the Nechako Valley

@NWSRI

nechakowhitesturgeon.org

We want to help YOU LEARN about sturgeon.

Book a tour at the hatchery; borrow a sturgeon field and/or storm drain kit; download resources from our website; and share your experiences and ideas on our Facebook page @NWSRI, or by emailing info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org.