

GRADE 4-7 2021-2022 STURGEON CALENDAR

SMARTBOARD - Click on the LINKS for more! ON YOU CLASSROOM WALL - Add your own events and projects on this calendar!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN...

- Sturgeon
- Salmon
- Mammals
- Invertebrates
- School Activity Days
- Watershed
- Community events

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31					1
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March 2022

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May 2022

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July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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QUICK LINKS

- V1 - Conservation Centre
- V2 - Spawning to Release Stage
- V3 - Sturgeon in the Wild
- V4 - Predation
- V5 - Changes in the Watershed
- V6 - Recovery of the NWS Population
- V7 - Monitoring Programs
- V8 - Sturgeon in the Winter
- Sturgeon Curriculum Outline
- Nature Guide to the Nechako Valley
- Every Sturgeon Counts
- NWSCC Virtual Tour - Fall
- NWSCC Virtual Tour - Spring
- NWSCC Virtual Tour - Summer

Highlighted Calendar Dates/Activities/Links

September 7: First day of school! Put up your calendar and bookmark it on your Browser!

September 14: Researchers are gearing up for the Juvenile survey. Watch [Video 7](#) and then read about [set-lines](#) and ['Cupcake'](#) to learn more.

September 20: 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 26: [BC Rivers Day!](#) Take a [Virtual Tour](#) of the hatchery in the fall.

September 27: Invertebrates play an important role in the river ecosystem and [riparian zone](#). Use the [Sturgeon Kit](#), or use the [Nature Guide](#) and take a field trip to get a closer look at aquatic insects.

October 4: Bears are now feeding on the spawned salmon. Learn about [biodiversity](#) and interactions.

October 10-23: All hatchery sturgeon are getting [PIT tags](#) implanted this month. [Video 7](#) gives a demo.

November 8: 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 14-20: 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 29: Get thinking about the impacts to the Nechako Watershed - [Watch Video 5!](#)

December 6: Young sturgeon are vulnerable to predators. Watch [Video 4](#), and the [sturgeon anatomy](#) lesson to learn about predation.

December 13: Sturgeon are now 'sleeping'. Watch [Video 8](#) to see sturgeon overwintering in the river.

January 3: Welcome back to school! Get thinking about sturgeon again - watch [Every Sturgeon Counts](#) then talk about what you found important.

January 17: Sturgeon have lived since the age of dinosaurs and have been important to First Nations families for generations - watch [Video 6](#) to learn more, then explore [sturgeon history](#) and ['Unel'tsoo'](#).

February 8: Sturgeon researchers are planning their summer research projects. Can you think of a project? To get started use the ['Day in the life of...'](#)

February 21: Family Day! Share your favourite story about sturgeon with your family!

March 7: Winter is slowly coming to an end and sturgeon will start migrating to the spawning grounds soon. Review the [map](#) and sturgeon migration, [changes to the watershed](#) and [land uses](#).

March 14: [Tour Time!](#) Take a virtual tour of the hatchery during the spring!

April 4: This month the water will start to warm up. Sturgeon become active and want to feed. Explore [Video 2](#) and [sturgeon habitat and food](#).

April 17-30: Crews are preparing to (1) release sturgeon into the Nechako, (2) capture adult sturgeon for this year's [brood program](#) and the [Monitoring worksheet](#). Watch [Video 1](#) and read about ['Anna'](#) to get excited!

May 6: Watch for a virtual event, and read about the [Juvenile Sturgeon Release Event](#) from years past.

May 15-21: Watch for buoys and boats on the river - they are checking for wild [spawned sturgeon eggs](#). Watch [Video 7](#) to learn more.

May 22-28: [Spawning at the hatchery and the river!](#) 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 6: 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 26-July 2: Sturgeon have hatched into a [yolk-sac larvae](#) and then free-swimming larvae. Read about ['Stuart'](#) the larval sturgeon!

July 10-16: Most of the eggs that were fertilized in May will now be fully formed juvenile sturgeon - and there is likely some in the river too! Be sure to think about how you can care for the river to protect young sturgeon.

July 18: The early Stuart River sockeye salmon run may have started. Download the [Nature Guide](#) to learn more and use all summer long!

August 1 onward: Check the sturgeon [website](#) to see if the hatchery opens to tours or take the [summer time Virtual Tour](#). Make sure to stop and read any [Interpretive signs](#) this summer!

BIG IDEAS!

Visit the [Grade4-7 webpage](#) to see [activities and curriculum lessons](#) that will help your learners understand these Big Ideas using Nechako White Sturgeon as your example species all year long!

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

October 2021

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December 2021

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February 2022

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April 2022

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June 2022

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August 2022

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@NWSRI
nechakowhitesturgeon.org

To Teachers: We want to help YOU & YOUR STUDENTS LEARN about sturgeon.

Book a tour at the hatchery (when we are allowed); 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.