

GRADE 4-7

HOW TO USE THIS CALENDAR
Click on the [LINKS](#) in this calendar to watch videos, get to lessons plans and more. Dates are categorized by...

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

2023-2024 STURGEON CALENDAR

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
- V9 - Sturgeon Life Cycle (animation)
- V10 - How the Hatchery Works (animation)
- Sturgeon Curriculum Outline
- Nature Guide to the Nechako Valley
- Every Sturgeon Counts
- NWSCC Virtual Tour - Fall
- NWSCC Virtual Tour - Spring
- NWSCC Virtual Tour - Summer

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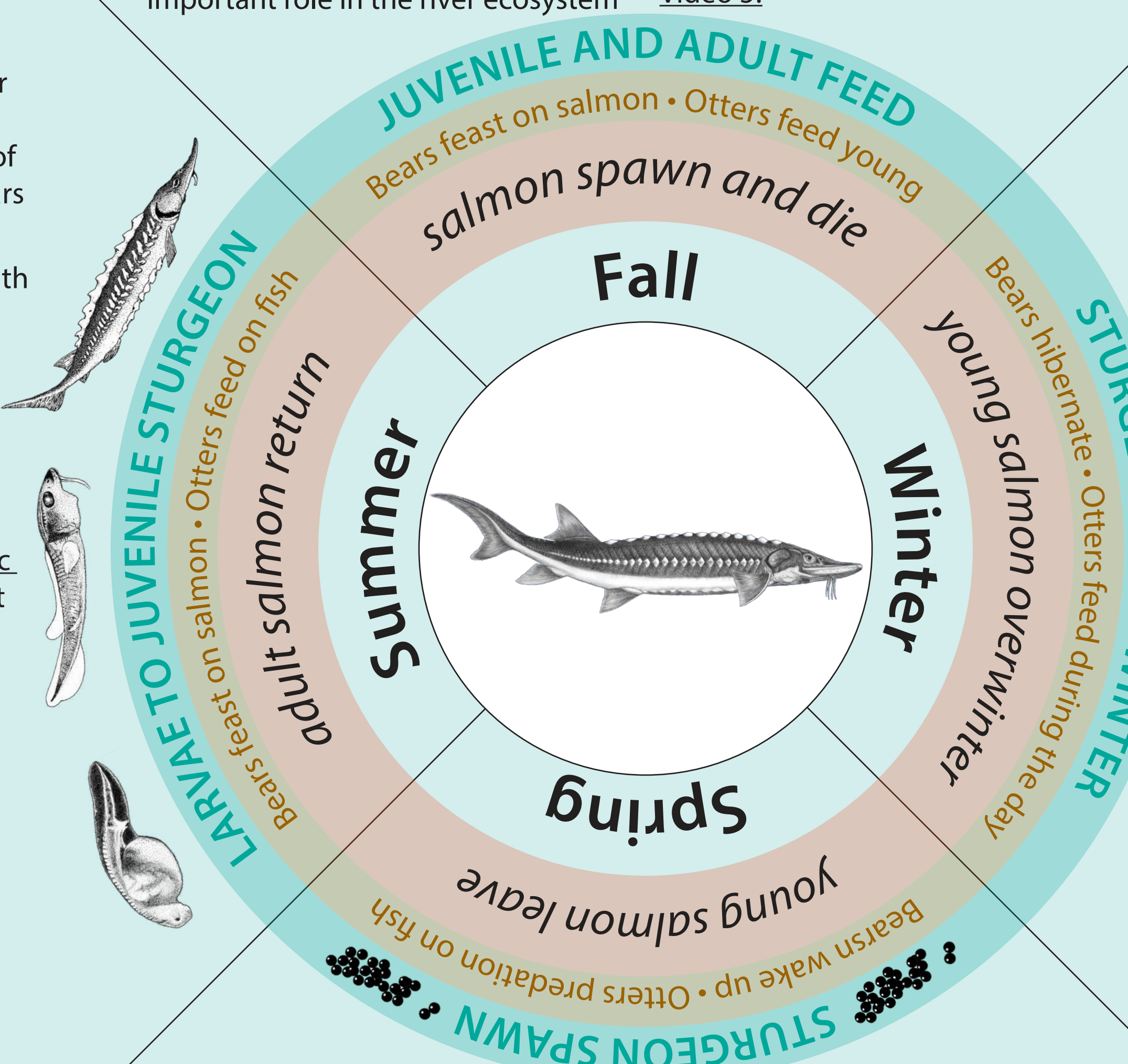
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Visit the **Grade 4-7** webpage to see activities and curriculum lessons that will help your learners understand these Big Ideas using Nechako White Sturgeon as your example species all year long!

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

BIG IDEAS

- December 4-8:** Young sturgeon are vulnerable to predators. Watch [Video 4](#), and the [sturgeon anatomy](#) lesson to learn about predation.
- December 11-15:** Sturgeon are not active over the winter. Sturgeon are now 'sleeping'. Watch [Video 8](#) to see sturgeon overwintering in the river.
- January 8:** Welcome back to school! Get thinking about sturgeon again - watch [Every Sturgeon Counts](#) then talk about what you found important.
- January 15-19:** Although it is winter, go visit a wetland! Lots of mammals and birds use wetlands all year long. Explore this habitat and look for tracks.
- February 14:** 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 19:** Family Day! Share your favourite story about sturgeon with your family!
- February 26-29:** LEAP YEAR - Check the [Where is My Fish](#) website to see if any fish you or your school have released were recaptured last fall and where!



June 3-6: The Sturgeon Release Event is this week! Read about the [Juvenile Sturgeon Release Event](#) from years past, and watch [Video 10](#) again to remember how the sturgeon are reared.

June 7: The Sturgeon Release Event! 2-year old hatchery sturgeon are about to be released into the Nechako River. Watch one of the [Juvenile Sturgeon Release Event](#) from years past.

June 10-15: Plan a [storm-drain painting](#) day with your class in your community.

June 17-21: 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 24-30: Sturgeon have hatched into a [yolk-sac larvae](#) and then free-swimming larvae. Read about ["Stuart"](#) the larval sturgeon!

July 9-15: 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 16-22: 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](#) you come across this summer!

September 5: First day of school! Put up your calendar and [bookmark it!](#)

September 10-12: Sturgeon have lived since the age of dinosaurs and have been important to First Nations families for generations - watch [Video 6](#) to find the name for sturgeon in Dakelh, and then learn about [sturgeon history](#) and 'Unel'tsoo'.

September 13-15: Researchers will be going on the river to try and fine juvenile sturgeon. Watch [Video 7](#) to learn more.

September 18-22: 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 24: [BC Rivers Day!](#) Take a [Virtual Tour](#) of the hatchery in the fall.

September 25-29: Invertebrates play an important role in the river ecosystem

and riparian zone.

This week, use the [Sturgeon Kit](#), or the [Nature Guide](#) and take a field trip to get a closer look at aquatic insects.

October 2-6: Bears are now feeding on the spawned salmon. Learn about [biodiversity](#) and interactions.

October 8-21: All hatchery sturgeon are getting [PIT tags](#) implanted this month. [Video 7](#) gives a demo.

November 6-7: 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!

November 8-10: 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 20-24: Get thinking about the impacts to the Nechako Watershed - [Watch Video 5!](#)

March 4-8: 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 11-15: [Tour Time!](#) Take a virtual tour of the hatchery during the spring!

April 8-12: 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 15: Bears are starting to wake up from hibernation. What are the first foods bears eat in the spring?

April 16-26: 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 13-17: Look for buoys and boats on the river - they are checking for wild [spawned sturgeon eggs](#). Watch [Video 7](#) to learn more.

May 21-24: [Spawning at the hatchery and the river!](#) Review [Video 2](#) again about how staff can tell when a female sturgeon is ready to spawn.

May 27-31: As the water warms, invertebrates start to hatch. Take a water sample from a wetland and river - see what invertebrates you find. Are they the same or different? Use the invertebrate guide from the [Sturgeon Kit](#).

FOR EDUCATORS

To Educators:
 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.