Unit 3: Nechako White Sturgeon Decline
There used to be thousands of sturgeon in the Nechako River. Now there are not enough young sturgeon to produce the next generation.

Knowing what you now know about Nechako white sturgeon...
Why are young sturgeon not surviving?

Eggs → Larvae → Juvenile → Sub-Adult → Adult Spawning

Very few young fish!
WHY?
Altered Habitat

### Need
- Deep water
- Fast flowing
- High turbidity
- Cool
- Clean gravel

### Have
- Water controlled by dam
- Fast flowing
- Not as high turbidity
- Lots of silt in gravel
- Few floods make for less turbidity
- Loss of riparian less shade
- Lots of silt in gravel
Poor Survival

Need
- Deep water
- High turbidity
- Habitat to hide from predators

Have
- Water controlled by dam
- Not as high turbidity
- Altered habitat
- Predators
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Have</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td>Pollution from human development (towns, farms, industry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lots of invertebrates and fish</td>
<td>Salmon fisheries (in the ocean and river)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deep and turbid water</td>
<td>Dam</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Climate Change

Need

• Cool water

Have

• Changing water conditions
What do you think are the biggest factors?