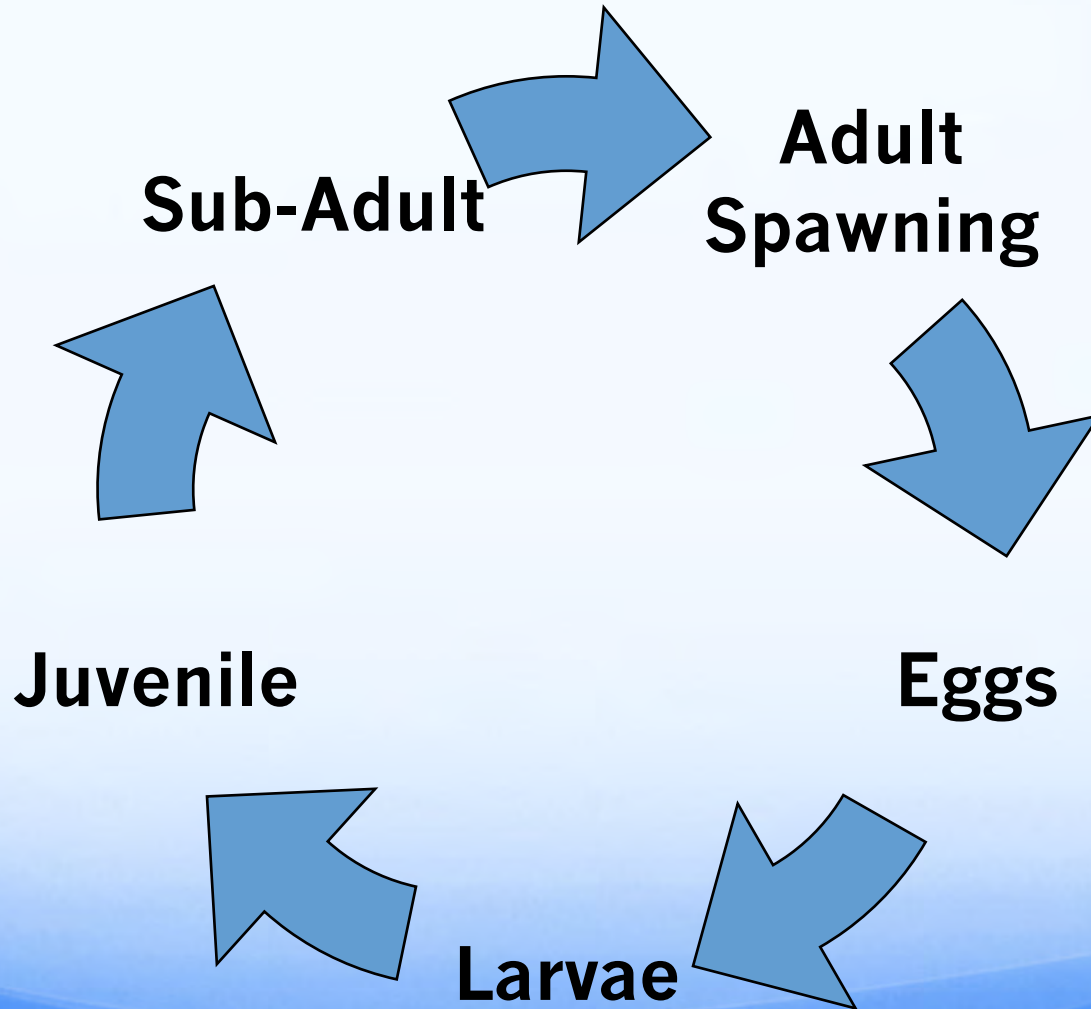


Nechako White Sturgeon Habitat & Food

Sturgeon Life Cycle

What are the specific habitat and food needs for each life cycle stage?



Eggs

Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks (no silt!).
- Fast flowing water.
- Relatively deep water (ideal for spawning adults).
- Water temperature between 14-18°C.

Food

- ?



Eggs

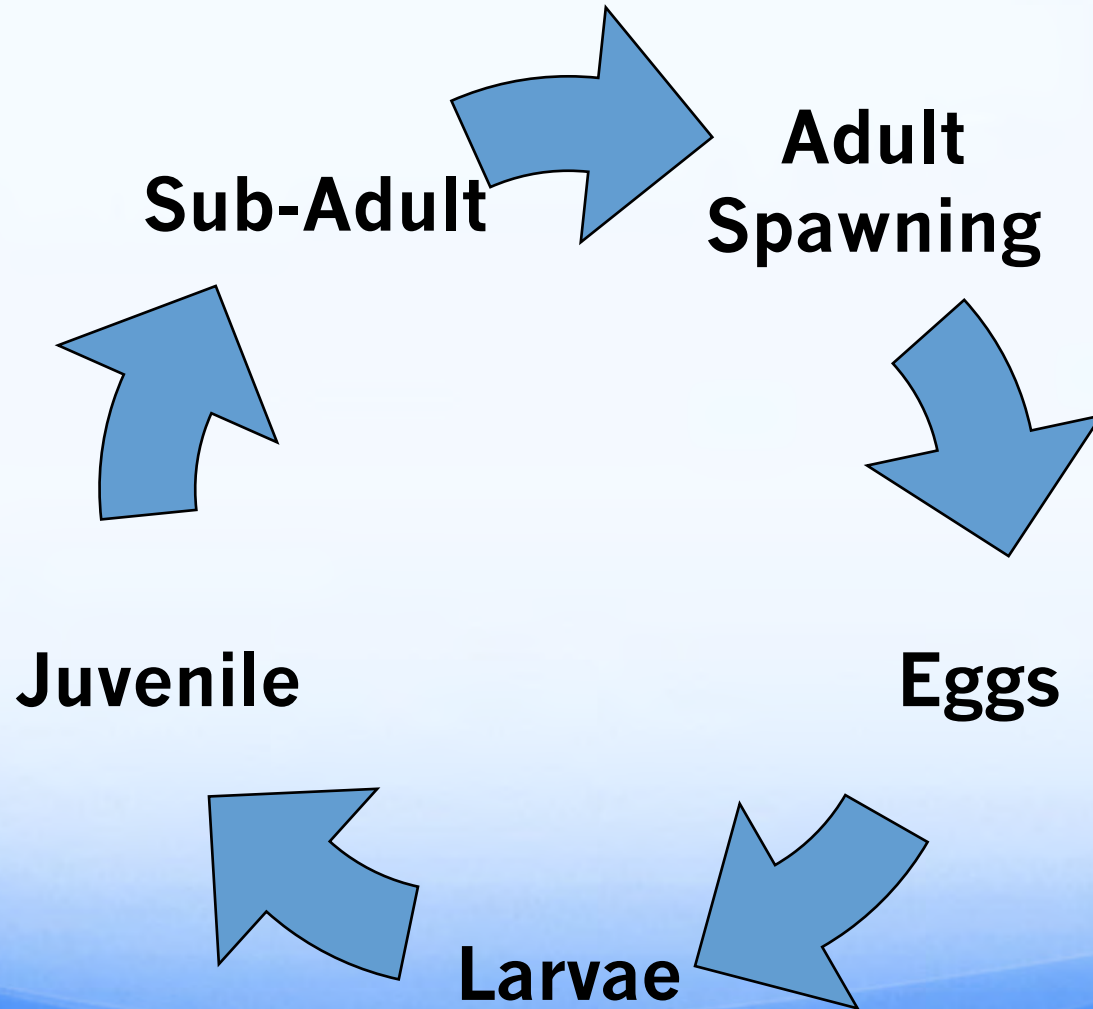
Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks (no silt!).
- Fast flowing water.
- Relatively deep water (ideal for spawning adults).
- Water temperature between 14-18°C.

Food

- NONE – they are developing inside the egg.

Sturgeon Life Cycle





Larvae

Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks.
- Fast flowing water.
- Turbid water – murky.
They can hide better from predators in murky water and by hiding in the gravel and rocks.

Food

- ?



Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks.
- Fast flowing water.
- Turbid water – murky. They can hide better from predators in murky water and by hiding in the gravel and rocks.

Food

- for the first 12 days – NONE! They feed off yolk sac.
- After 12 days they eat macro-invertebrates!

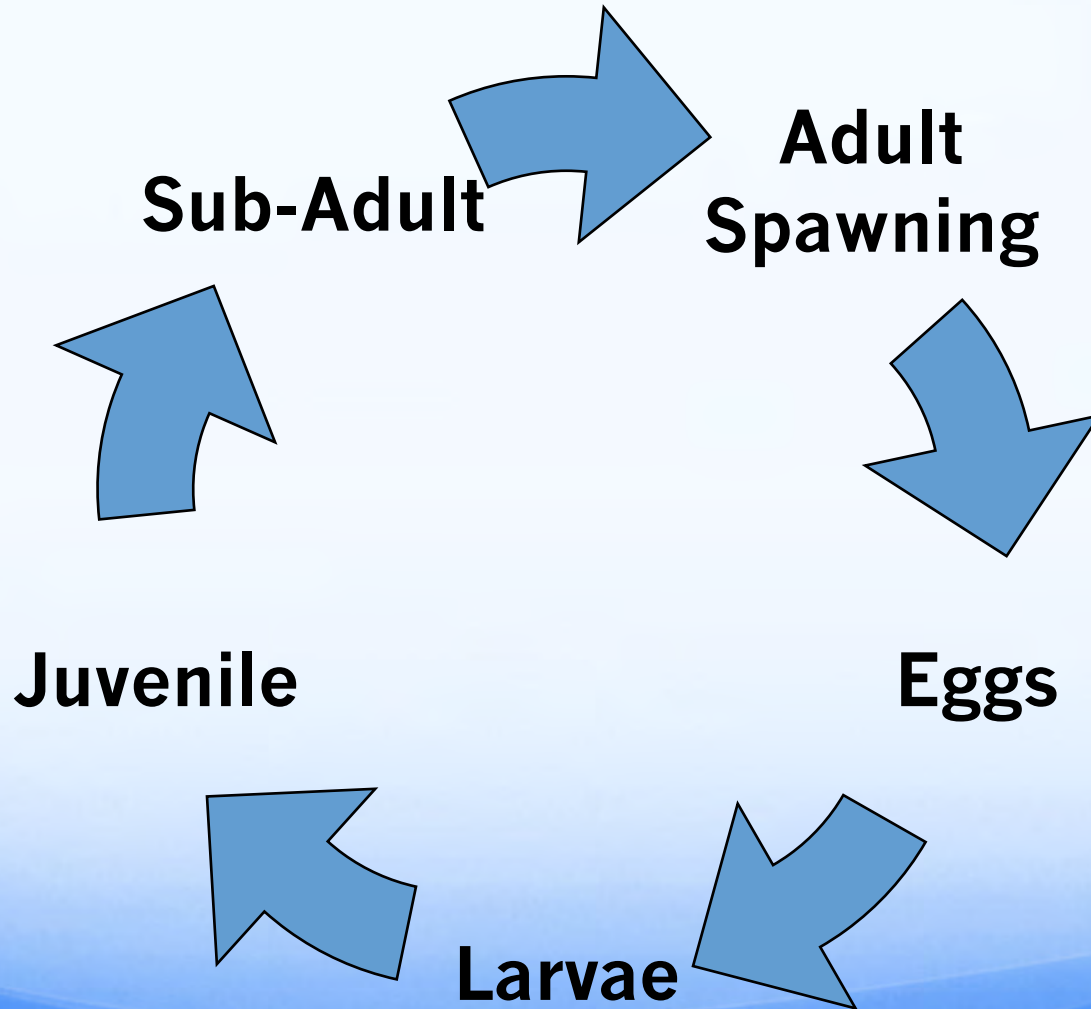


Macro-invertebrates

Macro: small, but can be seen by the naked eye.

Invertebrate: has no backbones but has an exoskeleton (protection on the outside of body).

Sturgeon Life Cycle





Larvae

Habitat

- Deep water.
- Slow back eddies.
- Cool areas.
- Fast flowing areas.

Food

- ?



Juvenile

Habitat

- Deep water.
- Slow back eddies.
- Cool areas.
- Fast flowing areas.

Food

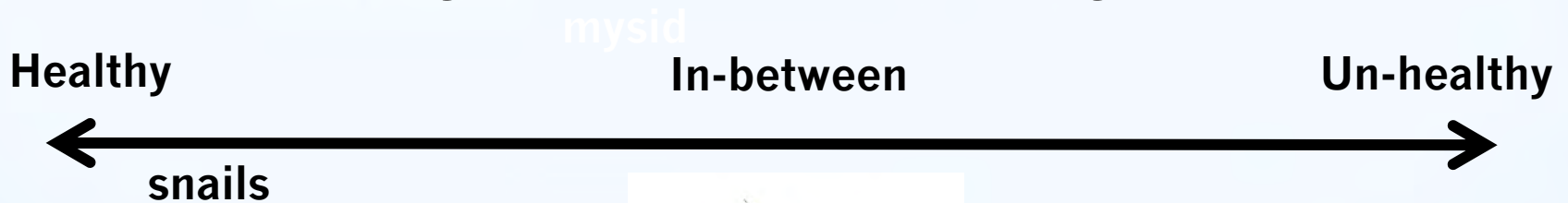
- Benthic invertebrates (benthic means on the bottom).
- Small fish, such as sculpin, and fish eggs.



Larval and juvenile sturgeon eat invertebrates.

The type of invertebrates found in a river depends on the amount of pollution in the water.

Here is a scale of invertebrates you find in a healthy creek verses unhealthy creek.



snails



Water beetle



leech



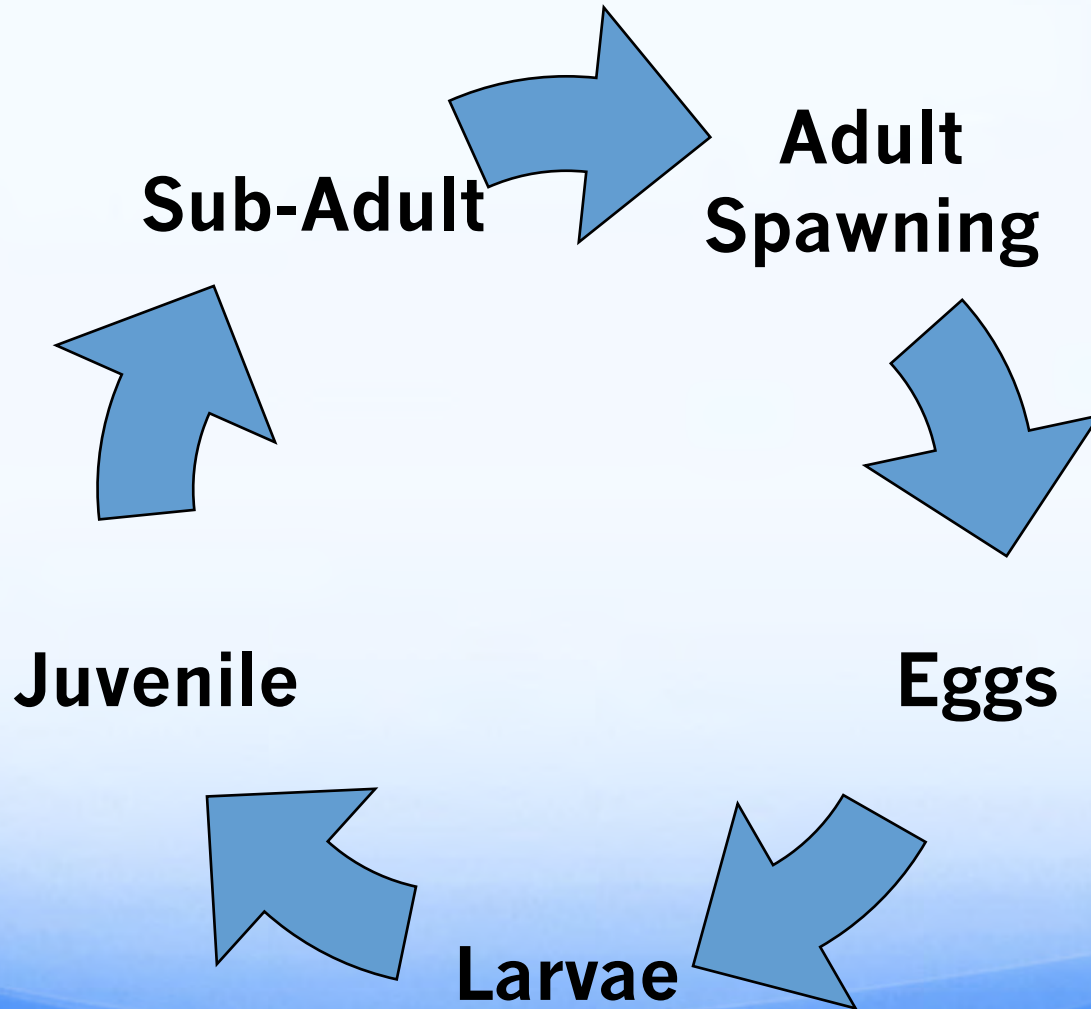
caddis fly



Dragonfly



Sturgeon Life Cycle



Adult

Habitat

- Deep water.
- Slow back eddies.
- Cool areas.
- Fast flowing areas.
- Turbid water (for spawning).
- Lakes.

Food

- ?

Adult

Habitat

- Deep water.
- Slow back eddies.
- Cool areas.
- Fast flowing areas.
- Turbid water (for spawning).
- Lakes.

Food

- Large fish, such as salmon and trout.



Hurray!!!

You now know:

- **What a sturgeon looks like and why**
 - **The life cycle of the sturgeon**
 - **The habitat it needs to survive**
 - **The food it needs to survive**
- **The predators it needs to avoid**