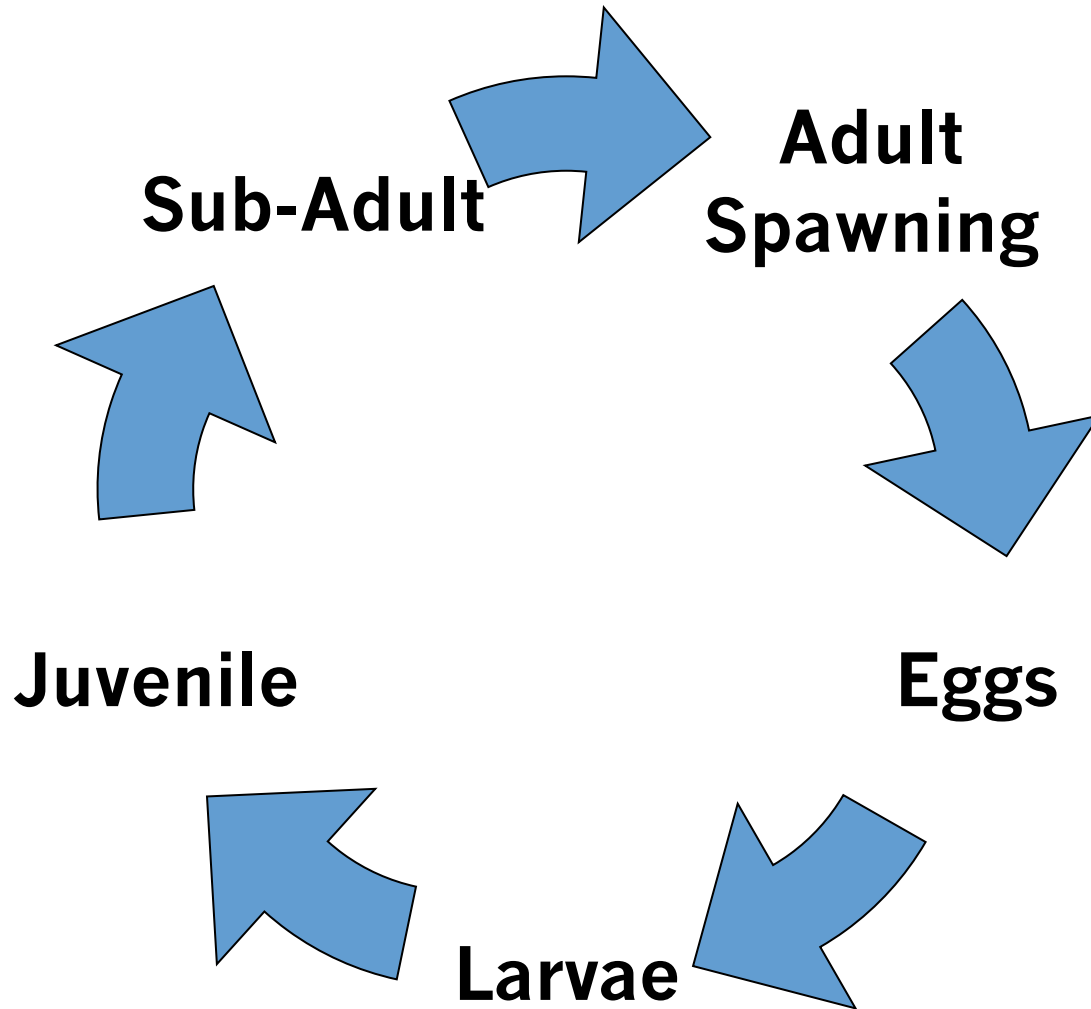


# Unit 3: Nechako White Sturgeon Habitat & Food

# Sturgeon Life Cycle

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





# Eggs

## Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks (little silt!).
- Fast flowing water.
- Relatively deep water (ideal for spawning adults).
- Water temperature between 14-18°C.

## Food

- What are your ideas?



# 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

- Yolk in the egg – they are developing inside the egg.



# 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

- What are your ideas?



# 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

- for the first 12 days 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).

# Juveniles

## Habitat

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

## Food

- What are your ideas?





# 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.

**Healthy**

**In-between**

**Un-healthy**



**snails**



**Water beetle**



**leech**



**caddis fly**



**Dragonfly**





# Adult

## Habitat

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

## Food

- What are your ideas?

# 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.

