

NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

VIDEO 2 - SPAWNING TO RELEASE STAGE

This video gives a general overview of the process of harvesting eggs and milt, the life cycle and the Sturgeon Release Event.

The vocabulary in this video may be beyond that of primary students, however there are lots of quick facts and figures related to sturgeon life cycle, that would be interesting for the students. First, here is a breakdown of the video contents...

Total Length: 10:31 minutes. It is broken into several sections. Below are some key questions to think about in each section of the video.

Spawn Timing and Testing: 00:00 to 02:00

- Why would you hard boil the sturgeon eggs before cutting them?

Harvesting Eggs and Milt for Fertilization: 02:00 to 04:14

- What happens to sturgeon eggs that are not released at spawning?
- Why are sturgeon eggs sticky?

Family: 04:14 to 04:58

- How many eggs can one female sturgeon have?

Life Cycle: 04:58 to 07:22

- Sturgeon eggs are black and salmon eggs are pink - can you think of why there is a difference (think about how each species spawns)?
- Draw the life cycle of sturgeon and compare to that of a typical Pacific salmon species - what are the differences and similarities and why?
- For support material and to explore this topic further look at the [Life Cycle](#) presentation and do [Lesson 3-2 \(Life Cycle\)](#) from the Sturgeon Curriculum.

Sturgeon Release Event: 07:22 to 10:31

- What is your favourite memory from the Sturgeon Release Event?
- Go to the [Where is My Fish](#) website and find your fish!

See the attached Activity Sheet for this video...

DEFINITIONS

Throughout the video, the narrator uses scientific language.

Germinal Vesicle: The enlarged nucleus of the egg before it is mature and available for spawning.

LHRHA: Pituitary hormone that induces the release of eggs.

Docile: Calm.

Vent: The external opening of a fish that is used for both excretion and reproduction.

Milt: Sperm.

Maternal Family: Offspring related to one mother.

More available at:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org

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About the Spawning

Sturgeon Eggs! (02:30 minutes)

Female sturgeon start spawning when they are around 40 years old!

How many eggs can a female sturgeon release each time she is ready to spawn?

Draw a picture of a female sturgeon releasing eggs into the river at spawning.

Sturgeon Release! (07:30 minutes)

One of the best times of year is the Sturgeon Release Event!

Have you seen a young sturgeon? Have you released one into the Nechako River?

Draw a young sturgeon that you would release into the river, and give it a name.