

NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

VIDEO 8 - NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON IN THE WINTER

This video shows live sturgeon overwintering in the river and describes the habitat needs for these sturgeon and research needs to continue to further support recovery.

Total Length: 2:07 minutes. The video is broken into two sections. Below are some key questions to think about in each section of the video.

Winter Habitat: 00:00 to 01:26

- What type of areas of the river do sturgeon use over the winter? Why do you think they use these areas?
- Why is conserving energy important? What other animals have the same behaviour in the winter?
- Why do you think juvenile sturgeon would use these deep overwintering areas year round?

Overwintering Research: 01:26 to 02:07

- Why is further research needed on overwintering habitat?
- What will this research help to determine, and how do you think that will inform the Recovery Plan?

DEFINITIONS

Throughout the video, the narrator uses scientific language. Here are some definitions to many of the terms.

INQUIRY OPPORTUNITY:

Expand on these definitions to learn more about what they mean and how they relate to fisheries research.

Overwintering: The place and behaviours sturgeon have during the winter months.

Converge: Come together in large numbers.

Migrate: Moving between areas over a time period to access different resources or habitats.

INQUIRY ACTIVITY:

This video explores one time period of a sturgeon's year. As a class or as individual inquiry projects, explore one of these topics:

The link between the number of animals in a population and the amount of habitat in the environment in which they live. Explore terms such as carrying capacity, habitat availability. What measures can be taken to improve overwintering habitat?

Explore White Sturgeon in the Columbia River system and how and why their habitat needs and behaviours are similar or different to those of the Nechako River. What research happens on the Columbia River, in particular over the winter?

What are the biological needs of animals that hibernate or reduce their activity over the winter? How are their bodies adapted to survive? Are their adaptations similar to different species (eg. fish vs. mammal)?

Another topic that relates to overwintering that comes from watching this video.

More available at:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org

[Facebook @NWSRI](https://www.facebook.com/NWSRI)