

It's a Fact (Sheet)



The Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Angler Education and Information Sharing Project

We would like to offer these tips on White Sturgeon release techniques should incidental bycatch occur. As well there has been concern that White Sturgeon Recovery, especially the stocking program may be affecting the rainbow trout fishery. The table and chart included below show the annual results of a separate rainbow trout monitoring program carried out since 1999 by BC Hydro.

Releasing Sturgeon: If incidental bycatch of sturgeon does occur following these suggestions will increase likelihood of survival. **Columbia River White Sturgeon are 'Red-Listed'/Endangered and it is illegal to fish for them.**

- Use barbless hooks as required for all streams in BC, including the Columbia River.
- Play and release sturgeon as rapidly as possible. It is likely possible to play and release juvenile sturgeon quickly, however larger juveniles and

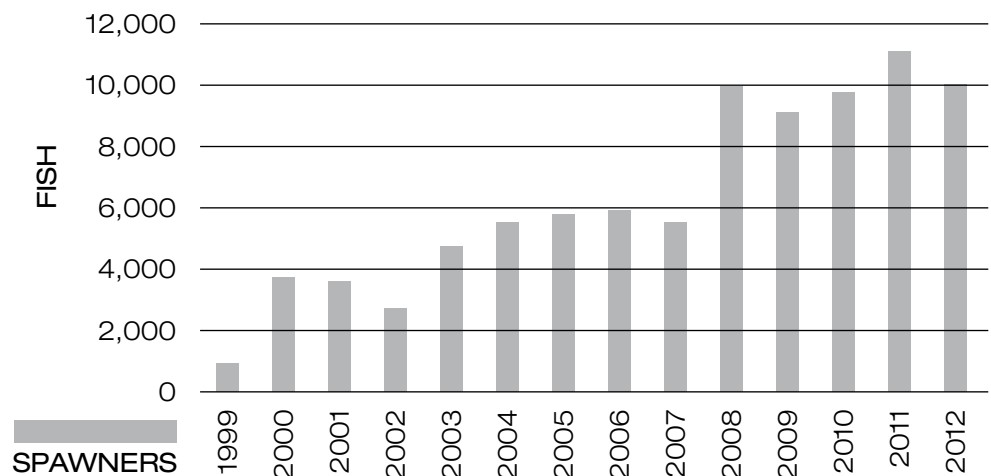
adult sturgeon may require anglers to retrieve as much line as possible, and then cut the line so as not to play a fish for extended periods. A fish played too long may not recover. Anglers should use their best judgement around this impact.

- Carry needle-nose pliers. Grab the bend or round portion of the hook with your pliers, twist pliers upside down and the hook will dislodge. Be quick, but gentle. If a hook has been taken too deep to grasp and remove, and as a last resort only, anglers should cut the line as close to the hook as possible before release.
- Do not remove the sturgeon from the water or spend time to take pictures. A fish out of water is suffocating, and the time out of water can contribute significantly to mortality. If you must handle the fish to remove the hook, do so with your bare wet hands (not with gloves if possible).

Lower Columbia River Rainbow Trout Abundance Estimates

YEAR	SPAWNERS
1999	830
2000	3,678
2001	3,614
2002	2,598
2003	4,690
2004	5,490
2005	5,894
2006	5,922
2007	5,448
2008	9,978
2009	9,098
2010	9,834
2011	10,976
2012	9,971 ¹

RB Spawner Abundance Estimates



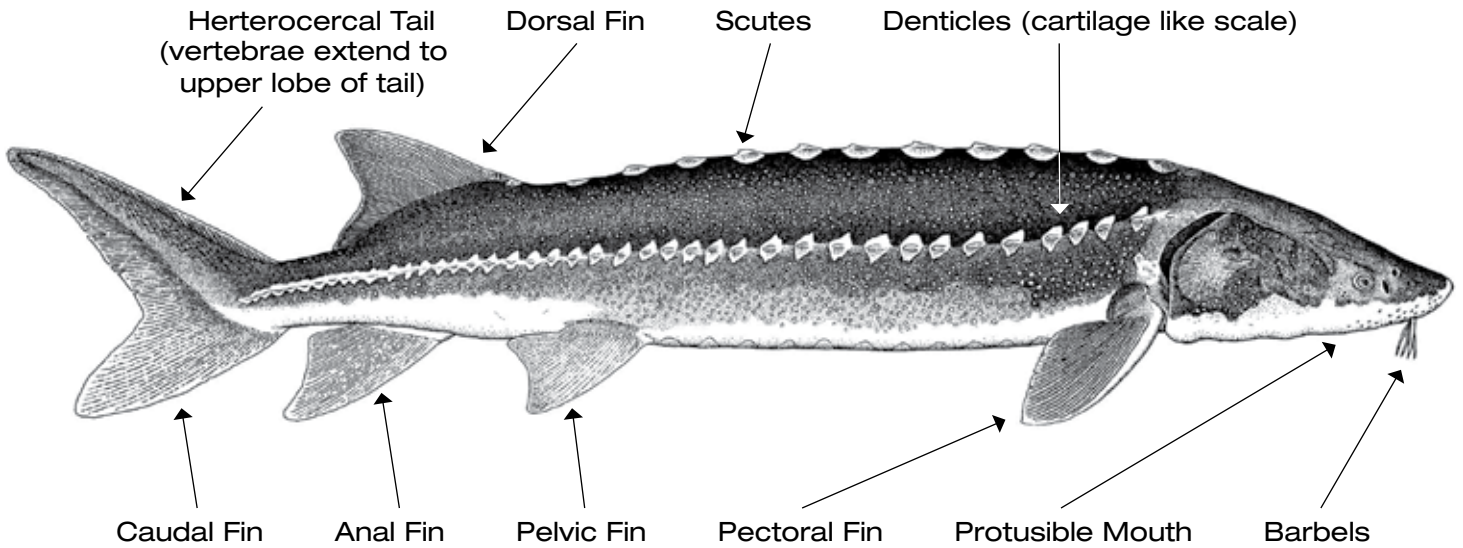
¹Average of previous four years (2012 population estimate has yet to be calculated)

Spawner Abundance Estimates are calculated from aerial counts of redds and spawners each year.

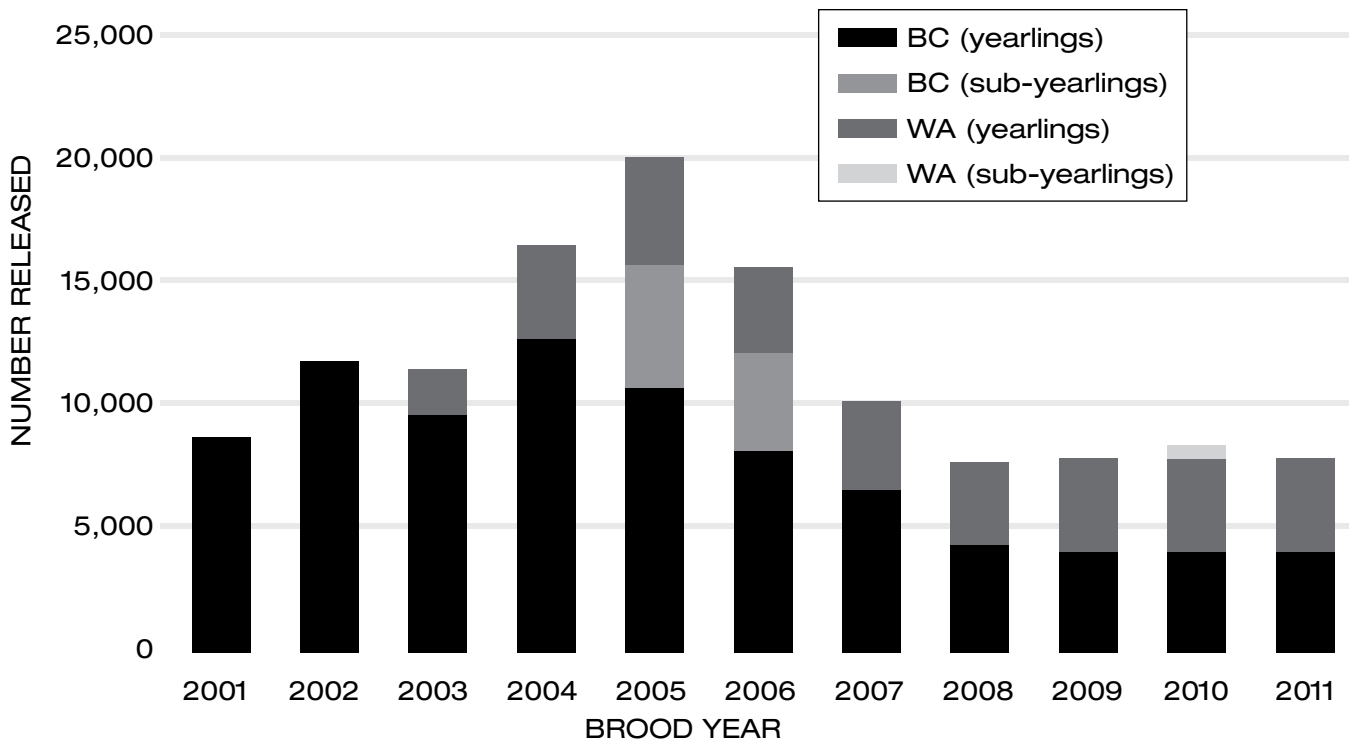


Canada





Juvenile Sturgeon Releases



For every 1000 juveniles released it is estimated that 180 survive to 12 years of age.



Canada

