

HCTF PRIORITIES FOR FRASER STURGEON WORK OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (2021-2026)

1. Lower Fraser population

- Summary report of all tagging data indicating size of juvenile and adult populations
- Completion of acoustic tagging work to identify spawning and rearing habitat
- Habitat assessment of key sturgeon main stem riparian habitat conditions
- Juvenile habitat use and changes with juvenile size/age and season
- Identification of priority locations for habitat protection and restoration through private land acquisition, public land designation or other mechanisms
- Compile historical sturgeon bycatch information and determine methods to assess and reduce gillnetting bycatch mortality
- Education and innovative database/app tools for guides and gillnet users

2. Mid-upper Fraser River sub populations

- Continuation of juvenile and adult tagging and population estimations
- Genetic analysis of subpopulations within the basin
- Estimation of angler effort and catch from recreational fishery
- Identification of current rearing locations
- Compile historical sturgeon bycatch information and determine methods to assess and reduce gillnetting bycatch mortality

3. Sturgeon management plan

- Recommend completion of a “sturgeon management plan” that is consistent with DFO SARA listing and incorporates consultation with First Nations, partners, and stakeholders