

## *2021-22 Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Challenge*

### *Event Rules*

The Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Challenge begins May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If the Gala is held virtually, the Challenge will conclude on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. If the Gala is to be an in-person event, the Challenge will conclude on Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

You may enter into the Challenge as many times as you wish. Each boat team is a standalone entry.

1. Prizes will be presented in a number of categories. Some categories will be based on the fork length measurements. In the event of a tie, the individuals tied will participate in a coin toss administered by the Tournament Master. The participant whose catch has been registered first shall call the toss. The winner of the toss shall be granted the higher standing. The top prize will be awarded based on the total length (cm) of sturgeon sampled, per boat team.
2. The Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Challenge is exclusively a sturgeon 'tag and release' event. No other species will be considered. **All fish will be handled, tagged and recorded as per the protocols of the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society and the Province of British Columbia handling guidelines.**

**Fish 150 cm in length or larger shall not be lifted into the boat or out of the water in anyway;** they should be taken to shore for measurement and remain in two (2) feet of water or more at all times, including during photo opportunities. If no shore/beach is easily accessible, the fish should be measured at the side of the boat. Any participant that disregards these handling protocols and/or wilfully causes injury or death to a sturgeon will be disqualified.

3. The length of a fish is defined as the **fork length (FL) which is the distance measured in centimetres (cm, from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail, measured along the side of the sturgeon.**
4. Your fishing day is 8 hours dock to-to-dock.
5. All fish must be landed prior to the conclusion of the tournament time. Your guide will ensure the fishing period is adhered too. A fish is considered landed when the guide has touched the leader.

6. Participants will have their names recorded beside their fish caught on the tag sheets by the guide. **All tag sheets MUST be returned to the Tournament Official by the guide within 24 hours.**
7. There is a 5-cm length bonus for all new tags applied to fish under 70 cm FL.
8. As this is a sport-fishing event, anglers may use only sport-fishing tackle and methods.
9. All fish must be hooked in the mouth; **“foul-hooked” fish will NOT be considered** for the tournament.
10. Participants are permitted to fish one rod per angler per boat, however for boats with fewer than four anglers, anglers can fish UP TO FOUR RODS total, including the guide. (e. g., three anglers can fish four rods including the guide; two anglers can fish three rods including the guide, etc.) Rod rotation is recommended, and rods are not required to be designated to a specific angler, however, a fish must be **CLEARLY designated to the angler that ‘lands’ the fish.**
11. Anglers must comply with all Department of Fisheries and Oceans and BC Environment fishing regulations. **Appropriate licenses must be held by all participants.** A tidal licence is required downstream of the Mission Bridge. A freshwater licence and a White Sturgeon conservation licence is required upstream of the Mission Bridge. Your guide will ask to see your licence at the boat.
12. Guides are permitted to assist only with the baiting of a hook, casting of a line, setting of reel drag and the measurement of a fish and data collection. Guides may **not participate** in the hooking or playing of a fish. Guides may only handle the tackle, if in their judgement there is imminent risk to the angler, the tackle or the boat. A guide may intervene briefly to ensure the safety of the participants as well as the sturgeon and gear. If a fish has been hooked, guides are permitted to touch the leader and to handle the fish, both into the boat sling if under 150 cm in length and in the water or boat-side sling for fish over 150 cm, for fish for data collection and fish release.
13. The Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Challenge strives to create an inclusive and accessible experience that enables all individuals to engage fully. All participants who require accommodation or have accessibility inquiries can contact John Rissling at [john@frasersturgeon.com](mailto:john@frasersturgeon.com). Any accommodation required needs to be requested prior to the start of the tournament and approved by the Tournament Master.



14. The Tournament Master will arbitrate all protests related to an alleged breach of the rules. At the Tournament Master's sole discretion, any catch and/or contestant may be disqualified.

15. All prizes will be awarded at the in-person Gala on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022

16. You **MUST be in attendance at the in-person Gala to collect your prizes.** If Gala is virtual on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2022, prizes will be awarded at that time and winners will be notified if they have not registered for the online event.

Information on the Event and Gala will be provided on the FRSCS Web Site at [www.frasersturgeon.com](http://www.frasersturgeon.com). Updates will be provided as required.

17. Fishing Areas and Boundaries

- a. No fishing in the Harrison River
- b. Fraser River from the estuary to Yale
- c. The Pitt River from the Fraser to Pitt Lake
- d. Please note that there will be some partial river closures above Mission in July to protect spawning sturgeon; your guide will be aware of these areas.

18. **LAST RULE:** Enjoy your day and your encounters with these truly amazing fish!

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