



## ***2021-22 Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Challenge*** ***May 15, 2021 – July 8, 2022***

### ***Event Rules***

1. The Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Challenge Begins May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and ends July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Our in-person Gala Evening will be on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. You may enter as many times as you wish. Each boat is a standalone entry.
2. 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 (cm) of sturgeon sampled, per boat Team.
3. 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 150cm 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 always remain in two (2) feet of water or more, 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.

4. The length of a fish is defined as the **fork length: the distance (in centimetres) from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail, measured along the side of the sturgeon.**
5. Your fishing day is 8 hours dock to dock.
6. 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.



7. Participants will have their names placed 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.**
8. There is a 5 cm length bonus for all new tags applied to fish under 70CM.
9. As this is a sport-fishing event, anglers may use only sport-fishing tackle and methods.
10. All fish must be hooked in the mouth. **“foul-hooked” fish will NOT be considered** for the tournament.
11. 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 4 rods including the guide; two anglers can fish 3 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.**
12. 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 C/W a STURGEON STAMP is required upstream of the Mission Bridge. Your guide will ask to see your licence at the boat.
13. 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 1.5m in length and in the water or boat side sling for fish over 1.5m, for fish for data collection and fish release.  
  
Participants with a disability or special need may receive further assistance from a guide, provided special dispensation has been requested prior to the start of the tournament and is approved by the Tournament Master.  
  
Accessible Boats and accommodations can be provided for people with disability to ensure that everyone is able to participate.
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 July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



FRASER RIVER STURGEON  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

16. You **MUST be in attendance at the in-person Gala to collect your prizes.**
17. Information on the Event and Gala will be provided on the FRSCS Web Site at [www.frasersturgeon.com](http://www.frasersturgeon.com) updates will provided as required.
18. 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 know these areas.
19. **LAST RULE:** Enjoy your day and your encounters with these truly amazing fish!

**John Rissling, Challenge Director**  
Email: [john@frasersturgeon.com](mailto:john@frasersturgeon.com)  
Cell: 604 290 7492

**Sarah Schreier Executive Director**  
Email: [sarah@frasersturgeon.com](mailto:sarah@frasersturgeon.com)  
Cel: 778 332 7345