

Issue: Fraser River Sand and Gravel Extraction

The FRSCS is concerned that the activities associated with Fraser River sand and gravel extractions may result in negative impacts to white sturgeon and their habitats, as well as other aquatic resources and the overall aquatic ecosystem of the lower Fraser River.

Background

A mandate of the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society (FRSCS) is to conduct research relating to Fraser River white sturgeon and to disseminate the results of such research. The response of the FRSCS to proposed sand and gravel extraction is to gather existing information and identify information needs and data gaps, and to initiate research toward providing credible, reliable information and data to fulfill these needs.

As a result of this mandate and response process, the FRSCS is able to work with all sectors, including government, stakeholders, First Nations, and public interests, toward the identification and delivery of useful information with the intent of conserving, protecting, and recovering lower Fraser River white sturgeon.

The FRSCS is able to provide expertise regarding lower Fraser River white sturgeon biology and habitat use for consideration by the Technical Committee of BC Fraser River Gravel Management so that this information can be considered in the decision-making process regarding gravel and sand extraction in the lower Fraser River.

FRSCS Philosophy

We believe in collaboration, excellence in research and the integrity in ensuring the conservation, protection and recovery of Fraser River white sturgeon.

We believe in finding solutions that benefit both habitat and public safety, together.

FRSCS Summary of Actions

To date, we have applied our expertise with due diligence to gather scientific knowledge, assess information, and identify any gaps to be addressed further.

We have assessed many areas of interest and advocated for their protection. We have also identified key areas where more information is needed to ensure informed decision-making. We intend to continue this work and to provide recommendations based on scientific review and assessment.

FRSCS Position

The FRSCS is committed to gathering scientific knowledge, identifying any gaps in information and advocating for clear, science-based action and solutions. To date, we have gathered information and advocated for the protection of known sensitive areas as well as identified gaps in information and recommended additional research and assessment prior to any further gravel and sand extraction. We intend to continue our research, assessment and advocacy to ensure the conservation, protection and recovery of Fraser River white sturgeon.