




**Lower Fraser Recreational Sturgeon Fishery**  
**Colin Schwindt**  
**Ministry of Lands, Water and Resource Stewardship**


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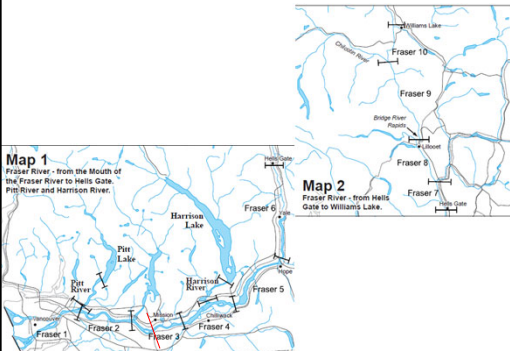
## Sturgeon Angling Regulations History

- **1994 Retention Ban** – in response to 93-94 adult die-offs
- **1999 Single barbless** – broad reg to reduce hooking mortality
- **2000 Dead fin fish** –to reduce spread of invasive fish, extended 2015
- **2001 Hatzic Lake sturgeon fishing closure** for conservation
- **2015 Night Closure** – to reduce night poaching
- **Removing sturgeon from water (>1.5 m FL)** – best practice
- **Spawning Closures (gravel reach)**
  - **2008 Voluntary closures** – engagement and consultation began
  - **2019 Regulated closures** – for 3 areas with 7 remaining as voluntary

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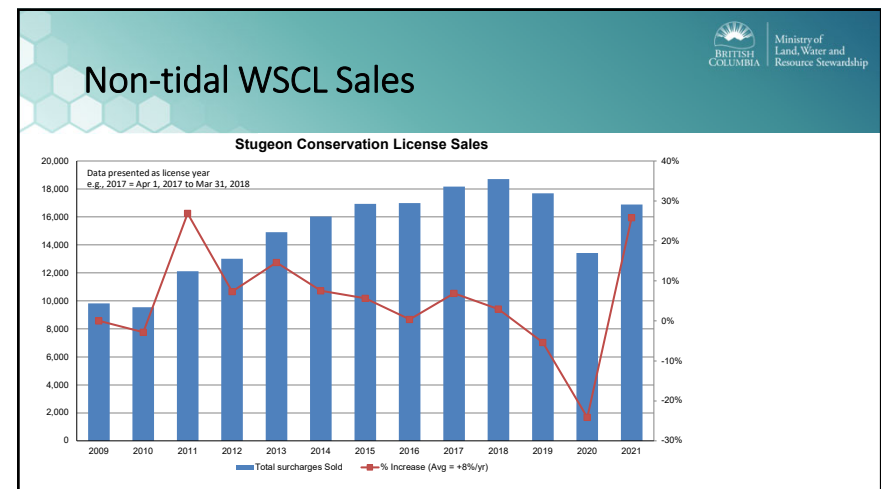


## Lower Fraser Rec Sturgeon Fishery

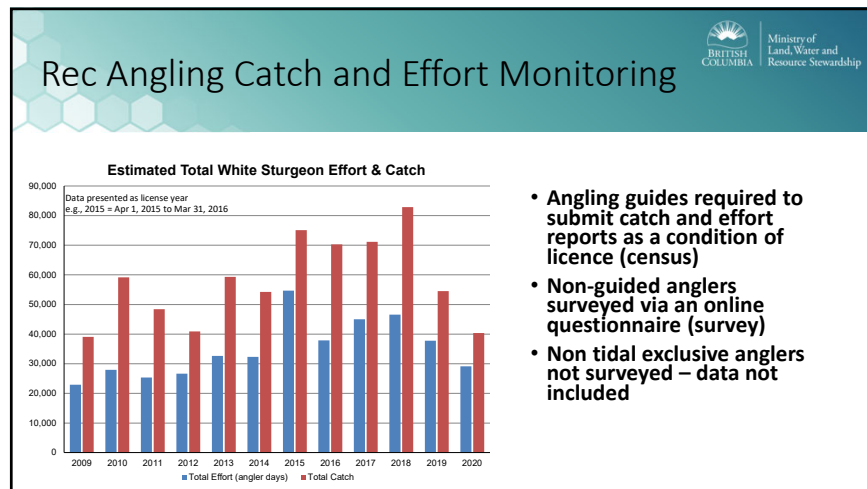


- Extends from Lillooet to ocean confluence (Region 2/3)
  - Includes Fraser, Harrison, Pitt and Lower Thompson Rivers
- Provincial managed upstream of Mission rail bridge (non-tidal)
  - White sturgeon conservation license requirement
- DFO management – downstream of Mission rail bridge (tidal)

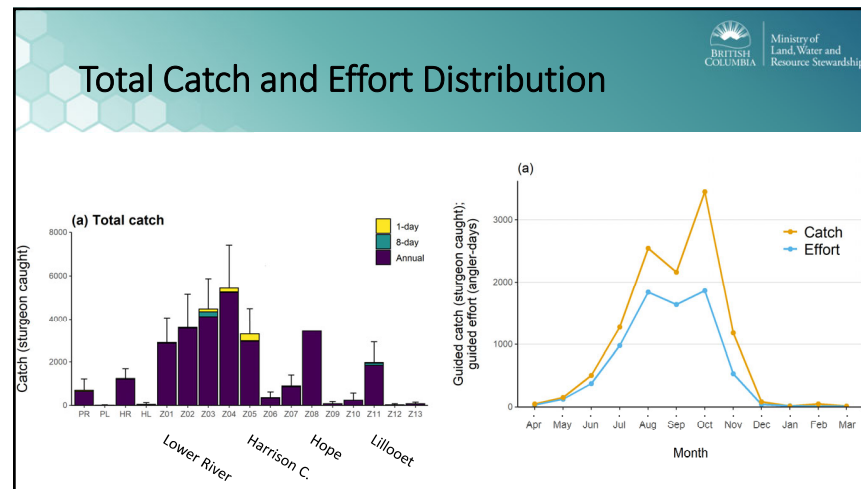
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### Issues and Improvements

- Assessment of potential bias indicate overreporting by nonguided angling by as much as 20%.
- Incomplete or unsubmitted guided reports (underreporting)
- No data by tidal exclusive anglers


**Future Improvements**

- Modernized angling guide reporting platform
- Field verification surveys

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Thank you


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## History of Time-Area Closures

- **2008** - Discussions of Voluntary Closure Areas (VCA's, Herring)
- **2010** - Proposal for regulated closure of Herring.
  - Gov. not ready, collect more data, formal consultation was new
- **2014** - Proposal for regulated closure of tidal Fraser
  - Proposal abandoned, maintain VCA, new VCA to be added, SCAAT was forming.
- **2016** - Added 3 more VCA's
- **2017** – Added 4 more (8 total) – concerns about more VCAs and methods to define them
- **Dec 2017** – Added 2 more (10 total) – concerns raised but regulation not supported

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## History of Time-Area Closures

- **March 2018** – Proposal for regulated Time-Area closure
  - Upstream of Harrison, May 15 to July 31
  - Branch revised to close Herring, Jespersion's Seabird, May 15 to July 31
- **Feb 2019** - FVAGA requested to remove VCA's
  - They are voluntary so no decision process
- **March 2020** – Proposal for regulated time-area closure
  - All Region 2, June 1 to June 30
  - Consultation through 2020
  - Proposal changed to Upstream of Harrison, May 15 to June 30
  - Final decision delayed; to be included in Provincial management planning process

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