



Glossary for the HSBC Fraser River Sturgeon Program

acipenser transmontanus - the Latin name of the white sturgeon

aquatic - living or closely associated with water

barbel - a whisker-like sensor that hangs from the mouth area of a sturgeon

cell - the basic unit of which all living things are made

cellular division - the process of cells dividing to make new cells

depth - the distance from the surface to the bottom of the river

ecological advantage - being in a more favourable position due to an animal or plant's ability to survive in the environment

egg - small, round cellular structures released by the female

estuary - the mouth of a river where the tide of the marine (salt water) meets and mixes with the fresh water of the river

fertilize - in fish species, when the egg from a female is joined with reproductive cells from the male

Fraser River - the largest river of British Columbia that starts in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, runs northwest toward Prince George, then southward to Vancouver

fry - an early stage of life when fish have defined body parts; follows the larval stage

habitats - places where plants and animals live

hatch - to emerge or come out of an egg

incubation - the process of keeping eggs in a favourable condition for hatching

incubation period - the time between egg fertilization and hatching

isinglass - a sticky substance that is made from swim bladders of fish

juvenile - an animal that has not matured to a stage when it can reproduce

larvae - the plural of larva; the first mobile stage of life after hatching

metamorphose - to go through changes in appearance and body structure

migrate - to move from one area to another, usually for feeding or breeding





(Glossary cont'd)

milt - reproductive fluid of male fish

motile - capable of movement

predation - the act of one animal killing another animal for food

predator - an animal that feeds on other animals (prey)

prey - an animal that is eaten by other animals (predators)

redd - nest or depression in the gravel created by salmon to receive eggs during spawning

salinities - the amount of salt in the water

scutes - small, bony plates on the outside of the sturgeon that is for protection

sediment - fine particles that settle to the bottom of a river or lake

siphon - suction of liquid and/or objects through a tube

spawning - behaviour and actions of male and female animals for the purpose of reproduction

stomach lining - the inner layer of the stomach

suffocation - being deprived of oxygen

swim bladder - a gas-filled sac found in some fish that permits them to control their buoyancy
(ability to rise or sink in the water)

water column - the water in a lake, river or ocean that extends from the bottom to the surface of
the water

watershed - the land area from which water drains into a particular river system

white sturgeon - one of 27 species of sturgeon

yolk sac - a small sac attached to the larvae that provides nutrients needed to survive and grow

