



July 1 2025 - April 9 2026

## Event Rules

*The FRSCS Sturgeon Conservation Tagging Derby begins July 1 2025.*

The Sturgeon Conservation Tagging Derby will conclude on April 9 2026, with the Conservation Celebration on April 11 2026. You may enter into the Sturgeon Conservation Tagging Derby as many times as you wish. Each boat team is a standalone entry.

## Want to Win? Here's how!

The Sturgeon Conservation Team Prizes for this derby are based on your two largest sturgeon total centimeters divided by your two smallest sturgeon total centimeters. Additional Sturgeon Conservation Prizes are awarded in other categories (see below).

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- 1 The FRSCS Sturgeon Conservation Tagging Derby 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.** Any participant that disregards these handling protocols and/or willfully causes injury or death to a sturgeon will be disqualified.

**In particular, fish 150 cm in length or larger shall not be lifted into the boat or out of the water in any way;** 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 or remain in a side sling for the duration of sampling.

- 2 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.**
- 3 Prizes will be presented in several categories and based on fork length measurements. **Team prizes will be awarded based on the two (2) largest fish total centimeters fork length, divided by the two (2) smallest fish total centimeters fork length.**
- 4 **All fish must be landed prior to the conclusion of the 8 hour ‘dock-to dock’ tournament time. Your guide will ensure the fishing period is adhered too. A fish is considered landed when the guide has touched the leader.**
- 5 Fishing Areas and Boundaries
  - Fraser River and its tributaries.
  - Please note that there may be some partial river closures above Mission between May 15 through July 31 to protect spawning sturgeon; your guide will be aware of these areas.
- 6 **Participants will have their name 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 **All fish must be hooked in the mouth; “foul-hooked” fish will NOT be considered for the tournament.**
- 8 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. 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.**
- 9 Participant anglers must comply with all Fisheries and Oceans Canada (tidal – downstream from Mission Bridge) and Province of British Columbia (non-tidal – upstream of Mission Bridge) fishing regulations. **Appropriate licenses must be held by all participants.** Your guide will ask to see your license at the boat.

- 10** 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;
  - briefly intervene appropriately, if in their judgement there is a case of imminent risk to the fish, the angler, the tackle, or the boat; and
  - 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.
- 11** The Tournament Official and Executive Director will arbitrate all protests related to an alleged breach of the rules and, with sole discretion, disqualify any catch and/or contestant as a result. In the event of a tie, the individuals tied will participate in a coin toss administered by the event official or other method as agreed to between the official and affected participants.
- 12** The FRSCS Sturgeon Conservation Tagging Derby 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). Requests must be made prior to the start of the tournament participant fishing day and approved by the Tournament Official.
- 13** All prizes will be awarded at the in-person at the Keeping the Legend Alive! Conservation Celebration Dinner on April 11, 2026. You must attend the Conservation Celebration Dinner in-person to collect your prizes. See FRSCS Website at [www.frasersturgeon.com](http://www.frasersturgeon.com) for dinner info.
- 14** FRSCS board directors, advisors and staff that purchase, in full, and register a boat team, are eligible to win prizes
- 15** **LAST RULE:** Enjoy your day and your encounters with these truly amazing fish!

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