

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
Adult Lake Sturgeon Population Monitoring Report (Future Keeyask Reservoir and Stephens Lake)

AEMP-2019-05


## $\widehat{\text { KEETASK }}$

# KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT 

 AQUATIC EFFECTS MONITORING PLANREPORT \#AEMP-2019-05

# ADULT LAKE STURGEON POPULATION MONITORING IN THE FUTURE KEEYASK RESERVOIR AND STEPHENS LAKE, 2018 

Prepared for

Manitoba Hydro

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June 2019

This report should be cited as follows:
Holm, J. and C.L. Hrenchuk. 2019. Adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake, 2018. Keeyask Generation Project Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan Report \#AEMP-2019-05. A report prepared for Manitoba Hydro by North/South Consultants Inc., June 2019. xv + 99 pp.

## SUMMARY

## Background

The Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (KHLP) was required to prepare a plan to monitor the effects of construction and operation of the Keeyask Generating Station (GS) on the environment. Besides measuring the accuracy of the predictions made and actual effects of the GS on the environment, monitoring results will provide information on how construction and operation of the GS will affect the environment and if more needs to be done to reduce harmful effects.

Construction of the Keeyask GS began in mid-July 2014 with the construction of cofferdams that blocked flow in the north and central channels of Gull Rapids (see map). During the winter of 2015/2016, the Spillway Cofferdam, which partially blocks the south channel was constructed. Beginning late in 2016 and continuing in 2017, the Tailrace Cofferdam was constructed. Work was completed in fall 2017 with the exception of an opening that was left to allow fish movement into and out of the cofferdam over the 2017/2018 winter. This opening was closed in spring 2018, and the area was dewatered. The spillway was commissioned in August 2018. The South Dam Cofferdam was completed in fall 2018, blocking the channel and forcing the entire flow of the river through the spillway.

Lake Sturgeon were identified as one of the key species for monitoring. They were chosen because they are culturally important to local people, the local sturgeon populations have been previously impacted, and construction and operation of the GS will change or negatively impact important habitat. The plan to monitor the impacts of GS construction and operation on sturgeon includes several types of studies:

- Estimating the number of adults;
- Estimating the number and growth of juveniles (less than 800 millimetres [mm] in length);
- Identifying spawning locations and numbers of spawning fish; and
- Recording seasonal habitat use and long distance movements (i.e., over GS's or rapids) through movement studies.

This report presents results from adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring in spring 2018 in the river reach that will form the future reservoir of the Keeyask GS (i.e., the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake (see study area map below).


Satellite Imagery - October 12th, 2018
Map illustrating instream structures at the Keeyask Generating Station site, October 2018.


Map of the lower Nelson River showing the site of the Keeyask Generating Station and the Lake Sturgeon study setting.

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## Why is the study being done?

Monitoring of the adult Lake Sturgeon population in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake is being done to answer several questions:

## Is there a change in how many Lake Sturgeon are in the future Keeyask reservoir?

Population estimates will allow us to determine how the number of adults is changing as we try to increase the number of sturgeon by stocking young fish. Lake Sturgeon are different from other fish in Manitoba because they do not begin to reproduce until they are at least 15 years old and they can live a very long time (more than 60 years and even up to 100 years). If the remaining adult fish disappear before enough young fish are born or stocked, then the population will not recover.

## Is there a change in the mortality rate of Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir?

The rate at which sturgeon are dying is important to know if we want the population of sturgeon to increase. If the mortality rate increases, then we would need to try to find the cause and possibly a way to reduce it.

Is there a change in the number of Lake Sturgeon captured in Stephens Lake each year the monitoring occurs?

This question is important because spawning sites for adult Lake Sturgeon in Stephens Lake (at Gull Rapids) will be changed by construction. Changes in the number of fish captured will tell us if the population is increasing or decreasing.

Is there a significant change in the condition (how fat they are) of Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir and in Stephens Lake?

This question is important because if sturgeon become fatter or skinnier than they used to be, something is changing in their environment. In the long term (more than 10 or 15 years), it might also mean that stocking has increased population levels to the point that there is not enough food for all the fish, and stocking should be reduced or stopped.

## What was done?

Sampling was conducted in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake from May 24 to July 1, 2018, using gill nets to target adult sturgeon. For this study, sturgeon that were 800 mm or longer were classified as adults. Although the exact size at which Lake Sturgeon become mature and ready to reproduce can vary, previous information tells us that 800 mm is a good standard size to use to determine whether fish are mature. Nets were set at locations where adults are known to occur, including at spawning sites, because sturgeon gather there to spawn in spring and are easy to catch. When a fish was caught it was measured, weighed, and examined for signs of spawning. If the fish was not already tagged, then two different tags were applied; an external (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ ) tag and a small internal (PIT) tag. If the captured fish had already

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been tagged, then the tag numbers were recorded before the fish was released. Tagging and recapturing fish makes it possible to estimate how many sturgeon are in a population. Populations are estimated using a model. Each year as more data are collected and added to the model, the population estimates get more precise and accurate. Therefore, these estimates are recalculated each sampling year, so they might differ between reports.


Pulling a gill net (left), captured adult Lake Sturgeon (middle), and releasing an adult Lake Sturgeon after processing (right).

## What was found?

A total of 235 Lake Sturgeon were caught in the future Keeyask reservoir in 2018. About half (132) were classified as adults because they measured 800 mm or longer and 18 of these fish were expected to spawn in the current year (adult Lake Sturgeon do not spawn every year). Seventy-four fish were recaptures of fish tagged in previous years. Of these recaptured fish, all were originally tagged in the future Keeyask reservoir. Two were hatchery fish released in the future Keeyask reservoir in 2015. In Stephens Lake, 241 Lake Sturgeon were caught, 173 of which were long enough to be considered adults. Thirty-two of the fish were classified as spawners. Eighty-seven of the fish had been captured and tagged in previous years, six of which had been tagged in the future Keeyask reservoir, one as far upstream as the reach between Clark Lake and Birthday Rapids. An additional four Lake Sturgeon were hatchery fish released into Stephens Lake in 2015.

A computer model is used each study year to generate estimates of population size and survival for adult Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake. Previously, not enough Lake Sturgeon had been recaptured in Stephens Lake for the model to work, so 2018 was the first year an estimate was calculated. In 2018, the future Keeyask reservoir population was estimated at 820 fish, which was comparable to both the 2014 and 2016 estimates. Survival in this area was $91 \%$, which is high. Overall, the calculated estimates show that the population in this area is increasing. The Stephens Lake population in 2018 was estimated at 296 individuals, which was comparable to both the 2014 and 2016 estimates ${ }^{1}$. Survival in Stephens Lake was estimated at $94 \%$, which is also high. Like the future Keeyask reservoir, the

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population estimate shows that the number of fish in Stephens Lake is increasing over time since 2001.

As more data are collected and added to the model, the population estimates get more precise and accurate. Particularly large changes in previous estimates occur when fish that were thought to be alive are reported as dead (for example from a tag return) or a fish that has not been captured for many years (and was thought to be dead) is captured again. This is also especially true for Stephens Lake, as 2018 was the first time a population estimate could be calculated. As more fish are captured, this estimate will become more refined.

The condition factor (a measure of how fat a sturgeon is at a given size) was similar to previous years for sturgeon of all sizes in the future Keeyask reservoir. In Stephens Lake, most sturgeon had similar condition factors to previous years, but medium-sized fish measuring 1,000-1,049 mm were thinner than in previous years. Overall, the condition factors of all the sturgeon were within the range seen elsewhere in Manitoba.


## Weighing (left), measuring (middle), and scanning for a PIT tag (right) an adult Lake Sturgeon

## What does it mean?

The population of Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir has remained relatively stable, and shows a significant increasing trend since 2001. Because 2018 is the first year a population estimate could be calculated for Stephens Lake and there is not as much data available, the estimates have varied more over the years. However, the population also appears to be increasing over time. Condition factors in both areas have not changed much since studies began and fish captured before the construction of the Keeyask GS have similar condition factors to those captured after construction began.

## What will be done next?

Monitoring will continue in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake every two years until 2044. Further monitoring will show whether the population increases, decreases or remains similar to current levels in both areas. Changes in the numbers of adult sturgeon generally occur slowly, unless a large number of sturgeon move to a different area. The effects of stocking will not begin to be seen in the adult population for several years, until the stocked fish reach 800 mm in size.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Manitoba Hydro for the opportunity and resources to conduct this study.
The following members of Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN), Fox Lake Cree Nation (FLCN), War Lake First Nation (WLFN), and York Factory First Nation (YFFN) are thanked for their local expertise and assistance in conducting the field work: Michael John Garson and Kelvin Kitchekeesik of TCN; Johnathan Sandberg of FLCN; Darren Chapman of WLFN; and Nicholas Beardy of YFFN.

The collection of biological samples described in this report was authorized by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Fisheries Branch, under terms of the Scientific Collection Permit \#22-18.

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Keeyask Generation Project (the Project) is a 695-megawatt (MW) hydroelectric generating station at Gull Rapids on the lower Nelson River in northern Manitoba. The Project is approximately 725 kilometres (km) northeast of Winnipeg, 35 km upstream of the existing Kettle Generating Station, where Gull Lake flows into Stephens Lake, 60 km east of the community of Split Lake, 180 km east-northeast of Thompson and 30 km west of Gillam (Map 1). Construction of the Project began in July 2014.

The Keeyask Generation Project: Response to EIS Guidelines, completed in June 2012, provides a summary of predicted effects and planned mitigation for the Project. Technical supporting information for the aquatic environment, including a description of the environmental setting, effects and mitigation, and a summary of proposed monitoring and follow-up programs, is provided in the Keeyask Generation Project Environmental Impact Statement: Aquatic Environment Supporting Volume (AE SV). As part of the licensing process for the Project, an Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan (AEMP) was developed detailing the monitoring activities of various components of the aquatic environment, including the focus of this report, adult Lake Sturgeon populations, for the construction and operation phases of the Project

Adult population monitoring studies were initiated in 2001. Two areas were considered: the area that would be directly affected by the Project (including the reach of the Nelson River from Clark Lake to Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake; and rivers flowing into the upstream portion of Split Lake (referred to as the Upper Split Lake Area). When studies were initiated in 2001, it was known that Lake Sturgeon habitat in the Upper Split Lake Area would not be affected by the Project, but the degree of interaction between Lake Sturgeon in the Upper Split Lake Area and Gull and Stephens lakes was not known. Genetic studies completed since that time have demonstrated that sturgeon in Gull Lake are a separate population from sturgeon in the Upper Split Lake Area (Gosselin et al. 2016). However, some movement of adult Lake Sturgeon between Gull Lake and the Nelson River downstream of the Kelsey GS has been recorded. Studies have continued in the Upper Split Lake Area because this area was selected as a location where the KHLP could support the recovery of a Lake Sturgeon population outside the direct influence of the Project as an offsetting measure ${ }^{1}$.

Since 2001, Lake Sturgeon data have been collected in multiple years from the Upper Split Lake, Clark Lake to Gull Rapids, and Stephens Lake areas (Barth and Mochnacz 2004; Barth 2005; Barth and Murray 2005; Barth and Ambrose 2006; Barth and MacDonald 2008; MacDonald 2008a, b; Michaluk and MacDonald 2010; MacDonald and Barth 2011; Hrenchuk and McDougall 2012; Hrenchuk 2013; Groening et al. 2014; Henderson et al. 2016; Legge et al. 2017; Lacho et al. 2018). Studies focused on adults were conducted during alternate years among locations: in the Upper Split Lake Area during odd numbered years; and in the Nelson

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River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids and Stephens Lake in even numbered years. These studies were conducted during spring and identified sturgeon spawning areas, determined the relative importance of spawning sites, and contributed to the understanding of sturgeon movements. Mark-recapture data also have been used to develop adult abundance estimates for populations in the Upper Split Lake Area and in the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids. It has not been possible to develop an estimate for Stephens Lake because too few fish have been captured. The last population estimate for the Upper Split Lake Area was derived in 2017 (Lacho et al. 2018). The last population estimate for the future Keeyask reservoir was derived in 2016 (Legge et al. 2017).
This report presents results of the adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring conducted in the future Keeyask reservoir (i.e., the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids [Map 2]) and in Stephens Lake (Map 3) in spring 2018, and compares these results to previous years. This is the second monitoring study conducted on adult Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir and in Stephens Lake since construction of the Project began in July 2014. Data collected during the field program address the adult population monitoring program and also provides information relevant to the movement monitoring program. The key questions set out in the AEMP for adult population monitoring were:

- Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically significant) change in the rate of population growth for the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake populations?
- Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically significant) change in survival for the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake populations?
- Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically significant) change in the condition factor of Lake Sturgeon?
- Is the relative abundance/CPUE of adult Lake Sturgeon in Stephens Lake changing?
- Over the long-term, is there a measurable effect on population growth due to stocking?
- Over the long-term, is the Lake Sturgeon population considered sustainable based on the size of the adult population and the population viability analysis?
The last two questions in this list relate to long-term changes and are not addressed in this report.

Movement monitoring, as described in the AEMP, is based on both mark/recapture methods (this report) and acoustic telemetry (Hrenchuk and Lacho 2019).

### 2.0 STUDY SETTING

The study area encompasses an approximately 110 km long reach of the Nelson River from Clark Lake to the upstream end of the Limestone Reservoir (Map 1). This section of river offers a diversity of physical habitat conditions, including a variety of substrate types, and variable water depths (range $0-30 \mathrm{~m}$ ) and velocities. Water velocities were classified as low (0.20.5 metres per second $[\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{s}]$ ), moderate $(0.5-1.5 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}$ ), or high (greater than $1.5 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}$ ), as described in the Keeyask AE SV.

Clark Lake is located immediately downstream of Split Lake, and approximately 42 km upstream of Gull Rapids (Map 1). Current is restricted to the main section of the lake, with offcurrent bays outside the main channel. The Assean River is the only major tributary to Clark Lake, and flows into the north side. Downstream from the outlet of Clark Lake, the Nelson River narrows and water velocity increases for a 3 km stretch, known as Long Rapids. For the next 7 km , the river widens, and water velocity decreases.
Birthday Rapids is located approximately 10 km downstream of Clark Lake and 30 km upstream of Gull Rapids (Maps 1 and 2). The drop in elevation from the upstream to downstream side of Birthday Rapids is approximately 2 m . The 14 km reach of the Nelson River between Birthday Rapids and Gull Lake is characterized as a large and somewhat uniform channel with medium to high water velocities. There are a few large bays with reduced water velocity and a number of small tributaries that drain into the Nelson River.

Gull Lake is a section of the Nelson River where the river widens, with moderate to low water velocity. Gull Lake is herein defined as the reach of the Nelson River beginning approximately 17 km upstream of Gull Rapids and 14 km downstream of Birthday Rapids, where the river widens to the north into a bay around a large point of land (Maps 1 and 2), and extending to the downstream end of Caribou Island, approximately 3 km upstream of Gull Rapids. Gull Lake has three distinct basins, the first extending from the upstream end of the lake downstream approximately 6 km to a large island; the second extending from the large island to Morris Point (a constriction in the river immediately upstream of Caribou Island); and the third extending from Morris Point to the downstream end of Caribou Island (Map 2).

Gull Rapids is located approximately 3 km downstream of Caribou Island on the Nelson River (Map 1 and 2). The rapids are approximately 2 km in length, and the river elevation drops approximately 11 m along its 2 km length. Two large islands and several small islands occur within the rapids, prior to the river narrowing; these features are within the Project footprint and have been substantially altered during construction (Map 2 and 4). A summary of construction activities at Gull Rapids is provided in Section 2.1.
Just below Gull Rapids, the Nelson River enters Stephens Lake (Map 3). Stephens Lake was formed in 1971 by construction of the Kettle GS. Between Gull Rapids and Stephens Lake, there is an approximately 6 km long reach of the Nelson River that, although affected by water regulation at the Kettle GS, remains riverine habitat with moderate velocity. Construction has
altered the flow distribution immediately downstream of Gull Rapids as all flow now passes via the south channel of Gull Rapids. In August 2018, flow was further constricted when the spillway was commissioned (see Section 2.1).

Construction of the Kettle GS flooded Moose Nose Lake (north arm) and several other small lakes that previously drained into the Nelson River, as well as the old channels of the Nelson River that now lie within the southern portion of the lake (Map 3). Major tributaries of Stephens Lake include the North and South Moswakot rivers that enter the north arm of the lake. Looking Back Creek is a second order stream that drains into the north arm of Stephens Lake (Map 1). Kettle GS is located approximately 40 km downstream of Gull Rapids.

### 2.1 CONSTRUCTION SUMMARY

Construction of the Keeyask GS began in mid-July 2014 with the construction of cofferdams in the north and central channels of Gull Rapids (Map 4). These cofferdams resulted in the dewatering of the north and central channels and the diversion of all flow to the south channel. Construction of the Spillway Cofferdam (SWCD), which extends into the south channel of Gull Rapids, was completed in 2015. The rock placement for the inner and outer groins of the Tailrace Cofferdam (TRCD) started in late 2016 and the impervious fill placement was completed in fall 2017. An opening was created to allow fish to move freely over the winter of 2017-2018. The opening was closed in spring 2018 and dewatering of the TRCD occurred in July, at which time a fish salvage was completed. In preparation for commissioning of the spillway, the SWCD was watered-up on both sides of the structure in June 2018. Removal of the SWCD started in early July and continued into August. The spillway was commissioned between August 3 and 7, 2018. Closing the south channel with the upstream South Dam Cofferdam (SDCD) commenced at the beginning of August and river closure was achieved on August 16. This closure and the work that continued to seal the cofferdam forced the entire river flow through the spillway. The downstream SDCD was completed in September and the area between the two cofferdams was dewatered, allowing for fish salvage to be completed by late September 2018. Work continued on the upstream SDCD until it was complete in late fall 2018.

### 2.2 Flows and Water Levels

From October 2017 to October 2018, Split Lake outflow ranged from about 2,800-4,000 m³/s. Flow typically fell in the range of about $3,000-3,500 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$, which is near the historical annual median flow of approximately $3,300 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$. Flow was generally higher during the 2017-2018 winter period, gradually declining from about $3,800 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$ at the end of February 2018 to about $2,800 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$ by the beginning of May. From early May 2018 to the beginning of July, flow gradually increased to about $3,500 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$ and remained at that level to the end of July. The flow
subsequently declined to about $2,800 \mathrm{~m}^{3} / \mathrm{s}$ by the end of September. Water levels varied in conjunction with the flows, ranging from about 153.4-155.2 m ASL on Gull Lake.

### 3.0 METHODS

### 3.1 GilLnetting

Large mesh gill nets were used to capture adult ( $\geq 800 \mathrm{~mm}$ fork length) Lake Sturgeon in areas along the Nelson River: the future Keeyask reservoir and in Stephens Lake. Gillnetting occurred from May 24 and July 1, 2018 upstream of Gull Rapids, and from May 27 to June 30, 2018, in Stephens Lake.

Gillnet gangs consisted of four $25 \mathrm{yd}(22.9 \mathrm{~m})$ long, $2.7 \mathrm{yd}(2.5 \mathrm{~m})$ deep panels of $8,9,10$, and $12 "\left(203,229,254\right.$, and 305 mm ) twisted nylon stretched mesh ${ }^{1}$. Gill nets were checked approximately every 24 hours, weather permitting. At each gillnetting site, UTM coordinates were taken using a hand-held GPS unit (Garmin Limited, Olathe, Kansas).

Water temperature was measured daily using a hand-held thermometer $\left( \pm 0.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. HOBO Water Temperature Pro data loggers $\left( \pm 0.2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$, set approximately 1 m off the substrate were also used to $\log$ water temperature at 6 -hour intervals in each of the study areas.

Captured Lake Sturgeon were measured for fork length (FL) and total length (TL; $\pm 1 \mathrm{~mm}$ ), weighed (with a digital hand-held hanging scale, hand-held conventional scale, or pan scale $\pm 1$ lb), and externally marked with individually numbered plastic Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$-GD-94 T-bar anchor tag (Floy tag). Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags were inserted between the basal pterygiophores of the dorsal fin using a Dennison ${ }^{\circledR}$ Mark II tagging gun. In addition to the external tag, each sturgeon had an individually numbered Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag (Oregon RFID Ltd., Portland, Oregon) injected under the third dorsal scute using Oregon ${ }^{\circledR}$ RFID tag injector needles, dipped in Polysporin ${ }^{\circledR}$ to minimize the risk of infection. Tags were injected into dorsal muscle tissue parallel to the horizontal axis of the fish. Following implantation, the fish was scanned using an Agrident ${ }^{\oplus}$ APR 350 Reader (Agrident Ltd., Steinkippenstrasse, Germany).

Sex and maturity were determined for individual adult Lake Sturgeon by applying pressure to the ventral surface of the fish to express gametes. If no gametes were expressed, sex and maturity codes were not assigned. The following sexual maturity codes were used:

```
Female (F)
2 - maturing to spawn (pre-spawn)
3 - ripe
4 - spent (post-spawn)
```


## Male (M)

7 - maturing to spawn (pre-spawn)
8 - ripe
9 - spent (post-spawn)

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Species other than Lake Sturgeon captured in the gill nets were measured for FL (TL for Burbot and Freshwater Drum), weighed, and released.

### 3.2 Data Analysis

As was done in previous years, data analysis included all sizes of Lake Sturgeon captured (as opposed to only those measuring more than 800 mm FL). Mesh sizes used target large Lake Sturgeon, but smaller fish are also captured. Including all fish in the summary statistics ensures comparability among years.

Mean FL (mm), weight ( g ), and condition factor (K) were calculated for all first-time captures and recaptured Lake Sturgeon tagged in a previous year. Condition factor was calculated for individual fish based on the following equation (after Fulton 1911, in Ricker 1975):

$$
K=W /\left(L^{3} / 10^{5}\right)
$$

Where:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{W}=\text { round weight }(\mathrm{g}) ; \text { and } \\
& \mathrm{L}=\text { fork length }(\mathrm{mm})
\end{aligned}
$$

Mean condition factor was calculated by 50 mm FL interval for adult Lake Sturgeon. Condition factor for pre-Project data (i.e., 2001-2014) was then compared to the first two years of monitoring data (2016 and 2018), by FL interval, using Mann-Whitney U-tests in XLSTAT ${ }^{\circledR}$ (Addinsoft 2006). Significance was determined using a p-value of 0.05 .

A length-frequency distribution for Lake Sturgeon was plotted in 50 mm FL intervals (e.g., 1,000-1,049 mm).

A length-weight relationship was calculated using least squares regression analysis on logarithmic transformations of FL and weight according to the following relationship:

$$
\log _{10}(\mathrm{~W})=\log _{10}(a)+b^{*} \log _{10}(\mathrm{~L})
$$

Where:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{W}=\text { round weight }(\mathrm{g}) ; \\
& \mathrm{L}=\text { fork length }(\mathrm{mm}) ; \\
& \mathrm{a}=\mathrm{Y} \text {-intercept; and } \\
& \mathrm{b}=\text { slope of the regression line }
\end{aligned}
$$

Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) was calculated and expressed as the number of Lake Sturgeon captured in 45.7 m ( 50 yd ; the standard length of adult Lake Sturgeon nets) of net per 24 hour period using the following formula:

CPUE $=\Sigma$ \# Lake Sturgeon $/ \Sigma$ gillnetting hours $\times 24 \mathrm{~h} /$ length of gill net used $\times 45.7 \mathrm{~m}$
Where:
$\Sigma=$ sum of the number of fish or gillnetting hours at all sites.
For the calculation of CPUE, the gillnetting effort (in hours) was standardized to gillnet gang length. For example, the duration of a gillnet set at a site where a 4-panel gang ( 91.4 m in length) was used was doubled to be the equivalent of a 2-panel gillnet gang ( 45.7 m in length).

Lake Sturgeon that were tagged in a previous year and recaptured in 2018 were included in all analyses; however, current-year recaptures (i.e., those captured multiple times within the same sampling year) were only included for the first capture.

### 3.3 POPULATION Estimation

Mark-recapture population estimates have been calculated for the future Keeyask reservoir during the spring of 12 different years (1995, 2001-2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018). In Stephens Lake, 2018 was the first year in which mark-recapture population estimates could be calculated. Estimates were calculated for the spring of 13 different years (2001-2006, 2008, 2010-2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018). Sampling methods and protocols differed between time periods. Lake Sturgeon were tagged in 1995 in Gull Lake by Manitoba Fisheries Branch and the Split Lake Resource Management Board. All data for the period 20012012 were collected annually as part of environmental studies related to the pre-Project environment, while data from 2014 until 2044 will be collected biennially as part of monitoring studies related to the Keeyask GS project. Detailed methods can be found in Appendix 3.

The Jolly-Seber model (POPAN formulation; Arnason and Schwarz 2002), as implemented within MARK, was used to estimate the annual abundance of adult Lake Sturgeon in both the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake. Survival estimates were calculated in two ways: i) split into groups based on model recommendations; and ii) split into pre-construction and construction estimates. These differed based on location.

For the future Keeyask reservoir, survival was estimated as follows:

- Model recommendation: 1995-2001, 2002-2004, and 2006-2018.
- Pre-construction (2004-2014) and construction (2015-2018).

For Stephens Lake, survival was estimated as follows:

- Model recommendation: 2001-2014 and 2015-2018; and
- Pre-construction (2001-2014) and construction (2015-2018).

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In order to track short-term trends in population size, current year estimates were compared to those from the previous one (i.e., 2016) and two (i.e., 2014) sampling periods. A statistically significant change was determined as an increase beyond the $95^{\text {th }}$ percentile or a decrease below the $5^{\text {th }}$ percentile (e.g., if the 2018 estimate was greater than the $95^{\text {th }}$ percentile from the 2016 estimate, the increase in population size was significant).

Long-term population trajectory was analysed using a standard linear regression. Slopes that were significantly different than zero ( $F$-tests, $\mathrm{p}<0.05$ ) indicated an increasing or decreasing trend. The slope of the regression through time indicated the approximate number of individuals added to or removed from the population each year.

Fish that moved downstream from the future Keeyask reservoir to Stephens Lake were removed from upstream analysis and added to Stephens Lake.

### 4.0 RESULTS

In total, 544 individual fish, comprised of five species, were captured in large mesh gill nets set in the Nelson River downstream of Clark Lake and in Stephens Lake during spring 2018 (Table 1). Of these, 476 were Lake Sturgeon. Tag and biological data for first-time Lake Sturgeon captures are presented in Appendix 1. Data from recaptured Lake Sturgeon are presented in Appendix 2.

### 4.1 Future Keeyask Reservoir

### 4.1.1 Relative Abundance/CPUE

Gill nets were set at 53 sites between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids between May 24 and July 1, 2018 (Table 2; Map 2). Water temperature increased from 6 to $18^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ over the duration of the study (Figure 1). A total of 246 fish, comprised of three species, were captured, the majority of which ( $96 \%$ ) were Lake Sturgeon (Table 1). No gillnetting mortalities occurred during sampling.

A total of 235 Lake Sturgeon were captured over 16,763 equivalent gillnetting hours, resulting in an overall CPUE of 0.33 LKST/ 45.7 m net/24 h (Table 2). The site-specific CPUE ranged from $0.0-1.4 \mathrm{LKST} / 45.7 \mathrm{~m}$ net/24 h by site. Gillnetting effort was highest in Zone BR-D (the reach of the Nelson River downstream of Birthday Rapids), at 9,233 equivalent hours (Map 2; Table 3). Lake Sturgeon CPUE was higher in Gull Lake compared to the Nelson River (Map 2; Table 3). Overall CPUE by zone was:

- $\quad$ BR-U $=0.06$ LKST/45.7 m net/24 h;
- $\quad$ BR-D $=0.27$ LKST/45.7 m net/24 h;
- GL-A $=0.38$ LKST/45.7 m net/24 h;
- $G L-B=0.41 \mathrm{LKST} / 45.7 \mathrm{~m}$ net/24 h; and
- GL-C = 0.44 LKST/45.7 m net/24 h.

The first Lake Sturgeon was captured on May 26 , when the water temperature measured $7.3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and the last Lake Sturgeon was captured on the final day of sampling on July 1, when the water temperature measured $17.0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Figure 1; Appendix 1). The daily catch peaked at 13 Lake Sturgeon on June 7 and June 12 when water temperature was 10.3 and $15.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, respectively (Figure 1; Appendix 1).

### 4.1.2 Biological Metrics

Lake Sturgeon captured had a mean fork length of 850 mm (range: $436-1,550 \mathrm{~mm}$ ), a mean weight of $5,960 \mathrm{~g}$ (range: $318-30,844 \mathrm{~g}$ ), and a mean condition factor of 0.81 (range: 0.28-1.43) (Table 4). Of the 235 Lake Sturgeon caught, 132 were considered adults ( $\mathrm{FL} \geq 800 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) and 103 were considered juveniles ( $\mathrm{FL}<800 \mathrm{~mm}$ ). Lake Sturgeon in the 900-949 mm FL intervals were captured most frequently ( $\mathrm{n}=35$ ), making up $15 \%$ of the total and $26 \%$ of the adult Lake Sturgeon catch (Figure 2). Sturgeon in the 700-749 mm FL interval were the next most frequent ( $n=30$ ), accounting for $13 \%$ of the total catch and $29 \%$ of the juvenile catch (Figure 2).

Mean condition factor of adult Lake Sturgeon did not differ significantly between baseline (2001-2014) and construction (2016 and 2018) for any of the 13 FL intervals for which comparisons were possible (Mann Whitney U test, p > 0.05; Figure 3). The length-weight relationship is presented in Figure 4.

Sex and maturity were determined for 18 individuals, two of which were current year recaptures (captured more than once in 2018) whose maturity status progressed between captures (e.g., a fish was initially captured in pre-spawn condition and recaptured in ripe or spent condition) (Table 6). The catch included 13 pre-spawn and 4 ripe males and one pre-spawn female (Table 6). Spawners were captured in Zones BR-U and BR-D. Five mature fish (Floy tag \#111765 [female], \#75316 [male], \#105409 [male], \#111758 [male], \#111770 [male]) were used as broodstock for the Project's stocking program. Details on gamete collection, egg fertilization, egg transport, hatch, larval rearing, and stocking can be found in Klassen et al. (2019).

### 4.1.3 Movements

PIT tags were applied to all 158 newly-captured Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir, as well as 36 Lake Sturgeon that had previously been tagged with Floy ${ }^{\left({ }^{®}\right.}$ tags (Appendix 1). PIT tags were inadvertently not applied to the three Lake Sturgeon captured in Zone BR-U; two of these fish had existing Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags. The remaining 38 fish had been previously tagged. Two of these were hatchery fish released into Gull Lake in 2015; these fish were implanted with PIT tags before release from the hatchery but had not been previously captured in gill nets (Appendix 2).

In total, 32\% of Lake Sturgeon were recaptures from previous gillnetting studies ( $\mathrm{n}=74$ ) (Table 7). Lake Sturgeon have been recaptured up to 6 years after being tagged. These fish often move between the Nelson River below Birthday Rapids and Gull Lake. Biological and previous capture information for previously tagged Lake Sturgeon are provided in Appendix 2 and are summarized below:

- Seventy-three were originally tagged between 2001 and 2017 in the same reach in which they were recaptured:
- Sixteen were recaptured in the Nelson River downstream of Birthday Rapids.
- Fifty-seven were recaptured in Gull Lake.
- Two (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag \#77503 and \#105480) were implanted with acoustic transmitters upstream of Gull Rapids in 2011 and 2014. Details on their movements since this time can be found in Hrenchuk and Lacho (2019).
- Four Lake Sturgeon lost a Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag and were identified by their PIT tags (new Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag \#79417, \#79411, \#111979, and \#111994).
- Tagging information could not be located for one Lake Sturgeon (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag \#96492); it is possible the tag number was recorded incorrectly in the field.


### 4.1.4 POPULATION Estimation

The population estimate for the future Keeyask reservoir in 2018 was 820 individuals (range: 678-991), which was greater than the $95 \%$ confidence limits of estimates from between 1995 and 2004, but within the 95\% confidence limits of estimates from between 2006 and 2016 (Figure 5; Appendix 3). The estimated annual survival (2006-2018) was $91 \%$. Both preconstruction (2004-2014) and construction (2015-2018) survival was estimated at $91 \%$.

To better examine potential short term changes in population size, estimates for the past two sampling periods were compared. The current (2018) mean population estimate was compared to the $95 \%$ confidence interval (CI) of the past two estimates (Figure 6). The $95 \%$ confidence interval ( Cl ) for the 2014 estimate encompassed a $16 \%$ decrease or $18 \%$ increase from the median estimate, while the 2016 Cl ranged from a $14 \%$ decrease to a $16 \%$ increase. The mean estimate for 2018 fell within the $95 \% \mathrm{Cl}$ for both 2014 and 2016, given that it was $2 \%$ and $10 \%$ greater than 2014 and 2016, respectively.

Overall, abundance estimates calculated between 2001 and 2018 show a significant increasing trend ( $\mathrm{r}^{2}=0.71, \mathrm{~F}=22.11, \mathrm{p}=0.001$ ) (Figure 7).

### 4.2 Stephens LaKe

### 4.2.1 Relative Abundance/CPUE

Large mesh gill nets were set at 62 sites downstream of Gull Rapids and in Stephens Lake between May 27 and June 30 (Table 2; Map 3). As a result of the temperature logger malfunctioning, temperatures from the Nelson River mainstem upstream of Gull Rapids were used. Water temperatures measured using a hand-held thermometer in Stephens Lake were comparable to temperatures measured upstream of Gull Rapids with the HOBO, byt were not measured every day. Water temperature ranged from 8 to $18^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ during the sampling period

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(Figure 1). A total of 298 fish were captured, comprised of five fish species, the majority of which (81\%) were Lake Sturgeon (Table 1).

Three gillnetting mortalities occurred during sampling. One fish was a new capture of unknown sex and maturity measuring $1,411 \mathrm{~mm}$ FL. Two fish were recaptures tagged in previous years: one male measuring $1,210 \mathrm{~mm}$ FL originally tagged in 2006 (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag \#80405), and one mature male measuring 925 mm FL (missing $\mathrm{Floy}^{\circledR}$ tag; PIT tag \# 900 226000548916; Appendix 2).

The 241 Lake Sturgeon were caught over 15,863 equivalent gillnet hours, resulting in an overall CPUE of 0.36 LKST/45.7 m net/24 h (Table 2). Zone-specific CPUE ranged from 0.16-0.48 LKST/45.7 m net/24 h (Table 3). Gillnetting effort was considerably higher in Zone STL-A compared to Zones GR-A and STL-B (Map 3; Table 3). Overall CPUE by zone was:

- GR-A $=0.48$ LKST/45.7 m net/24 h;
- STL-A $=0.38$ LKST/45.7 m net/24 h; and
- $\quad$ STL-B = 0.16 LKST/45.7 m net/24 h.

The first Lake Sturgeon was captured on May 28 at a water temperature of $9^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and the last on June 30 at a water temperature of about $18^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Figure 1; Appendix 1). The catch was highest on June $1(n=10)$ when water temperature measured $11^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Figure 1; Appendix 1).

### 4.2.2 Biological Metrics

Lake Sturgeon captured in the Stephens Lake Area had a mean FL of 901 mm (range: 361$1,411 \mathrm{~mm}$ ), a mean weight of $6,692 \mathrm{~g}$ (range: 250-27,125 g), and a mean condition factor of 0.83 (range: 0.43-1.53) (Table 5). Of the 241 Lake Sturgeon captured, 173 were classified as adults ( $\mathrm{FL} \geq 800 \mathrm{~mm}$ ). Lake Sturgeon in the $800-849$ and $900-949 \mathrm{~mm}$ FL intervals were captured most frequently ( $\mathrm{n}=34$ and 32 , respectively), comprising a combined $27 \%$ of the total and $38 \%$ of the adult Lake Sturgeon catch (Figure 8). Most ( $87 \%$ ) of the 67 juvenile fish ( $\mathrm{FL}<800 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) captured were in the 700-749 and 750-799 mm intervals ( $\mathrm{n}=29$ each).

Mean condition factor was higher during baseline monitoring than construction monitoring for only one size class ( $1,000-1,049 \mathrm{~mm}$ FL; Figure 9). There were no significant differences in condition factors for any other size class ${ }^{1}$. The length-weight relationship is presented in Figure 10.

Sex and maturity were determined for 32 individuals, including 11 pre-spawn, 15 ripe, and six spent males (Table 6). The ripe males were captured along the south shore in Zones GR-A and STL-A (Map 3) between May 30 and June 7, when the water temperature was about $9^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, while the spent males were captured at similar locations between June 1 and 16, when the water

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temperature increased from 9 to $15^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Map 4; Figure 1). No fish identified as spawning females were captured in Stephens Lake.

### 4.2.3 Movements

Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags were applied to 148 of the 150 newly captured Lake Sturgeon (excluding one mortality and one fish that was inadvertently not tagged). One untagged Lake Sturgeon received a PIT tag only. The remaining 91 fish were recaptures tagged in a previous year (Table 7). Four of these recaptures were hatchery fish released into Stephens Lake in 2015 that had been implanted with PIT tags before release from the hatchery but had not been previously captured in gill nets (Appendix 2).

In total, 36\% of the Lake Sturgeon captured in Stephens Lake in spring 2018 were recaptures from previous gillnetting studies ( $n=87$ ):

- Eighty-one had originally been tagged in Stephens Lake between 2001 and 2017.
- Twenty have been captured over multiple years since the original date of tagging; all but one recapture occurred in Stephens Lake.
- One (Floy ${ }^{(® 1}$ tag \#46827) was tagged downstream of Gull Rapids in 2001, was recaptured in the Nelson River downstream of Birthday Rapids in late-June 2003, and was later recaptured downstream of Gull Rapids in early June 2016 and 2018.
- Seven (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag \#55557, \#69868, \#74421, \#81628, \#88788, \#91174, and \#103230) were implanted with acoustic transmitters in Stephens Lake in 2011 and 2012. Details on their movements since this time can be found in Hrenchuk and Lacho (2019).
- Six were originally tagged upstream of Gull Rapids.
- One (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag \#94085) was tagged in the Nelson River upstream of Birthday Rapids in 2010.
- Two (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag \#105424 and \#110528) were tagged in the Nelson River downstream of Birthday Rapids in 2014 and 2016.
- Three (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags \#80114, \#86140, and \#103633) were tagged in Gull Lake between 2006 and 2014.


### 4.2.4 Population Estimation

Two Lake Sturgeon (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag \#103622 and \#115822) were reported as harvested by a local resource user. These fish had been tagged in Stephens Lake in 2012 and 2018, respectively, and both were harvested in Stephens Lake.

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The 2018 population estimate for Stephens Lake was 296 individuals (range: 218-401), which was above the $95 \%$ confidence limits of the 2001-2011 estimates, but within the $95 \%$ confidence limits of all other years (Figure ; Appendix 3). The annual survival estimate preconstruction (2001 to 2014) was 86\%, while the survival estimate during construction (2015 to 2018) was $94 \%$.

The current (2018) mean population estimate was compared to the $95 \%$ confidence interval (CI) of the past two estimates (2014 and 2016) (Figure 12). The 95\% confidence interval (CI) for the 2014 estimate encompassed a 36\% decrease or 52\% increase from the median estimate, while the 2016 Cl ranged from a 15\% decrease to a 17\% increase. The mean estimate for 2018 fell within the $95 \% \mathrm{Cl}$ for both 2014 and 2016, given that it was $37 \%$ greater than 2014 and 12\% lower than 2016, respectively.

Abundance estimates between 2001 and 2018 show a significant increasing trend ( $r^{2}=0.66$, $F=21.63, p=0.0007$ ) (Figure 13).

### 5.0 DISCUSSION

The main objective of long-term adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake is to identify potential changes in abundance and condition factor during construction and operation of the Project. Adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring is planned to continue until 2044.

### 5.1 Evaluation of Methodology

Population monitoring data for adult Lake Sturgeon in the Keeyask area are currently being collected by area (Upper Split Lake and future Keeyask reservoir/Stephens Lake) every two years. Gill net mortality remains low. In 2018, three mortalities occurred from a total of 487 captures ( $0.6 \%$ ). Analyses suggest that this methodology is performing well for determining Lake Sturgeon abundance as estimates have not fluctuated greatly between years and large numbers of outliers (i.e., large increases in untagged fish) have not been observed. By 2018, sufficient Lake Sturgeon had been tagged and re-captured in Stephens Lake to produce an abundance estimate for the first time.

Since 2013, double tagging (Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ and PIT) has been used to mark fish. This methodology is expected to improve confidence in the data set by reducing the probability that marked fish will be misidentified as unmarked fish due to Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tag loss. In 2018, four fish were recaptured that had lost Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags. Without PIT tags, these fish would have been misidentified as newlycaptured fish, leading to an artificially low recapture rate and an over-estimate of the population size. Two tags from Stephens Lake) were returned by local resource users in 2018. The inclusion of these tags helps to refine the population estimate, and reduces the chance of overestimating Lake Sturgeon abundance (i.e., by counting fish which are no longer in the population).

### 5.2 Adult Lake Sturgeon Abundance

More sturgeon were captured in both the future Keeyask reservoir ( $\mathrm{n}=232$ ) and Stephens Lake ( $\mathrm{n}=241$ ) than in any previous year of study (Table 2). The increase in Stephens Lake is particularly striking, given that the previous largest catch in 2014 was 71 fish. The 2018 population estimate for the future Keeyask reservoir ( 820 individuals, $95 \% \mathrm{Cl} 678-991$ ) was not statistically different from the 2014 ( 802 individuals, $95 \% \mathrm{Cl} 654-982$ ) or 2016 ( 745 individuals, $95 \% \mathrm{Cl}$ 621-892) estimates. Despite this, overall abundance estimates calculated between 2001 and 2018 show a significant increasing trend over time. Similarly, the 2018 population estimate for Stephens Lake ( 296 individuals, $95 \% \mathrm{Cl} 218-401$ ) did not differ significantly from the 2014 ( 216 individuals, $95 \% \mathrm{Cl} 125-374$ ) or 2016 ( 334 individuals, $95 \% \mathrm{Cl} 218-401$ )

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estimates. Abundance estimates between 2001 and 2018 in Stephens Lake also show an increasing trend over time.

Addition of data collected in 2018 to the population model in the future Keeyask reservoir did not indicate a substantial change in the survival rate, so a single rate for the 2004-2018 period continued to be used in the population model. The calculated survival rate in the future Keeyask reservoir remains high, at $91 \%$, which is greater than the estimate determined for the 20012004 period (77\%; Table A3-2). It is also higher than annual survival rates calculated both for the Burntwood (88\%) and Kelsey GS area (81\%) populations in 2017 (Lacho et al. 2018). The survival estimates did not change when split into pre-construction (2004 to 2014; 91\%) and construction (2015 to 2018; 91\%) periods. The calculated survival rate during construction for Stephens Lake (2015 to 2018) was also high, at 94\%; while the survival rate for 2001-2014 ( $86 \%$ was considerably lower). However, these estimates will likely change as data is added to the model and estimates are refined.

### 5.3 Spawning

A total of 18 Lake Sturgeon identified as being in spawning condition were captured in the future Keeyask reservoir in 2018, which is within the observed range since the study began in 2001. About half of the spawning individuals (including the one female) were captured where the Nelson River enters Gull Lake (zone GL-A; $\mathrm{n}=8$ or $44 \%$ ), with almost as many (including all of the ripe males) captured downstream of Birthday Rapids (zone BR-D; $n=6 ; 33 \%$; Map 2). These locations are similar to capture locations in previous years (Hrenchuk et al. 2015; Legge et al. 2017). An additional three pre-spawn males (17\%) were captured downstream of Clark Lake in the vicinity of Long Rapids (zone BR-U). Sturgeon that were preparing or ready to spawn have been previously captured in this area in 2004 ( $n=4$; Barth and Ambrose 2006), 2010 ( $\mathrm{n}=1$; MacDonald and Barth 2011), 2011 ( $\mathrm{n}=1$; Hrenchuk and McDougall 2012), and 2012 ( $n=1$; Hrenchuk 2013), suggesting that Lake Sturgeon may use Long Rapids to spawn.

For the first time since studies began in 2001, the number of spawning Lake Sturgeon captured was higher in Stephens Lake compared to the future Keeyask reservoir. More adult Lake Sturgeon in spawning condition were captured in Stephens Lake in $2018(\mathrm{n}=32)$ compared to all years of pre-construction sampling (2001-2014, $\mathrm{n}=22$ ) and the first year of construction monitoring (2016, $\mathrm{n}=8$ ), combined. During the construction period, all of the sturgeon in spawning condition were captured downstream of Gull Rapids (the only suitable spawning habitat for Lake Sturgeon in Stephens Lake). The increase in spawning adults, along with the observed increased abundance of Lake Sturgeon in the area, suggests that spawning activity at Gull Rapids may be increasing.

### 5.4 Size Distribution and Condition Factor

The mean size of Lake Sturgeon from the future Keeyask reservoir has been lower in studies conducted since 2012 ( $838-872 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) compared to earlier studies ( $901-1,149 \mathrm{~mm}$ ). A similar trend has been observed in Stephens Lake, where the mean length has been $<950 \mathrm{~mm}$ since 2011, but was $>1,000 \mathrm{~mm}$ in six of the seven years prior to this.

Based on the size distribution of Lake Sturgeon captured in the future Keeyask reservoir, there will likely be an increase in the number of spawning fish in the near future. Of the 235 Lake Sturgeon captured, 132 (56\%) were large enough to be considered adults. Of the 103 juveniles captured, 37 (36\%) measured between 600 and 699 mm FL and 56 (54\%) measured between 700 and 799 mm FL. Soon these fish will be recruited to the adult population. A similar trend was observed in Stephens Lake. Of the 68 juvenile fish captured, 58 ( $85 \%$ ) measured between 700 and 799 mm FL. The 2008 cohort has dominated the juvenile catch in both the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake since 2010 (Burnett et al. 2018). It is likely that these large juvenile fish represent this cohort, which will soon be recruited to the adult population. This will likely increase the number of adult Lake Sturgeon captured in both locations in the next sampling period (i.e., 2020).

Condition factor of Lake Sturgeon captured during baseline studies and in 2016 and 2018 were similar for the majority of size classes in both the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake. Mean condition factor was not significantly different between baseline and construction monitoring for any size classes in the future Keeyask reservoir. In Stephens Lake, one size class (1,000-1,049 mm FL) had significantly higher average condition factors during baseline studies than during construction. Future monitoring will indicate whether this difference persists and is biologically significant or just reflects natural variability within the catch. Mean Lake Sturgeon condition factors in the future Keeyask reservoir (0.82) and Stephens Lake (0.83) remain within the range typical for adult Lake Sturgeon populations in Manitoba (0.75-0.95).

### 5.5 Movement

A total of 384 Lake Sturgeon have been recaptured in the future Keeyask reservoir (Table 7) and 147 in Stephens Lake (Table 8) during spring population monitoring since 2001. The majority of recaptured sturgeon have not traveled far; most were tagged and recaptured in the same area (i.e., those originally tagged in the Nelson River upstream of Gull Rapids were recaptured in that reach, and those originally tagged in Stephens Lake were recaptured in Stephens Lake). Movement between zones within a waterbody are common.

None of the 74 recaptures from the future Keeyask reservoir in 2018 are known to have moved outside of the waterbody in which they were initially captured. A small proportion ( $\mathrm{n}=6$ or $2.5 \%$ ) of the 87 fish recaptured in Stephens Lake in 2018 were first tagged in the future Keeyask reservoir (\#80114, \#86140, \#94085, \#103633, \#105424, and \#110528). Two of these fish
(\#94085 and \#110528) exhibited signs of spawning during initial capture and recapture (Appendix 2).

Since 2011, an acoustic telemetry study encompassing Clark Lake to the Limestone Reservoir (Map 1) has tracked 12 movements made by nine Lake Sturgeon through Gull Rapids (six upstream and six downstream movements) (Hrenchuk and Lacho 2019). Nine fish tagged with acoustic transmitters were captured during the current study (two in the future Keeyask reservoir and seven in Stephens Lake); however, all were recaptured near their original tagging location. Both studies show that large-scale movements of these fish are generally rare and unless they are moving to a spawning area, adult Lake Sturgeon tend to remain within a general area (e.g., the upper basin of Gull Lake).

One potential effect of construction of the Keeyask GS identified during the Project assessment was increased emigration of adult Lake Sturgeon upstream to the Upper Split Lake Area. Markrecapture data continue to show that low numbers of fish move between Upper Split Lake and the Keeyask Area. Although no such movements were observed in 2018, downstream movements of fish from Upper Split Lake Area to the Keeyask Area have been observed in previous monitoring years (four fish or $1 \%$ of total recaptures; Table 7).

### 5.6 Key Questions

Information related to the key questions posed in the AEMP regarding adult Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake is presented in the preceding discussion. The current understanding of the answers to the key questions is summarized below.

Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically significant) change in the rate of population growth for the future Keeyask reservoir population?

The 2018 population estimate for the future Keeyask reservoir did not differ significantly from the 2014 or 2016 estimates. However, the overall abundance estimates calculated between 2001 and 2018 show a significant increasing trend over time.

Population size in Stephens Lake was estimated for the first time in 2018. The 2018 estimate did not differ significantly from the 2014 or 2016 estimates. However, as in the future Keeyask reservoir, the overall abundance estimates calculated between 2001 and 2018 show a significant increasing trend over time.

Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically significant) change in survival for the future Keeyask reservoir population?

Inclusion of the 2018 data into the calculated survival rate for the 2004-2018 period indicates that survival of adult Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir remains high (91\%). There was no difference in pre-construction (2004 to 2014) and construction (2015 to 2018) survival

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rates (91\%). Survival was calculated for the first time in Stephens Lake. Survival was higher during construction (2015 to 2018; 94\%) than pre-construction (2001 to 2014; 86\%).

Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically observable) change in the condition factor of Lake Sturgeon?
There were no significant differences in the condition factor of adult Lake Sturgeon captured during baseline studies and construction monitoring in the future Keeyask reservoir for any size class. In Stephens Lake, condition factor of sturgeon captured during baseline monitoring was significantly higher for fish measuring $1,000-1,049 \mathrm{~mm}$, but there were no significant differences for any other size class. Since 2018 represents only the second year of construction monitoring, further monitoring is necessary to see if the observed differences in condition factor are biologically relevant. It should be noted that the condition factor in Lake Sturgeon can vary considerably between years, and that average condition factor from both areas postconstruction continues to be between $0.82-0.90$, which is typical for adult Lake Sturgeon in Manitoba.

Is the relative abundance/CPUE of adult Lake Sturgeon in Stephens Lake changing?
The CPUE of Lake Sturgeon in 2018 in Stephens Lake ( 0.36 LKST/45.7 m net/24 h) was higher than reported in previous years with comparable program objectives (0.02-0.10 LKST/45.7 m net/24 h). The majority of the adults captured in 2018 measured less than $1,000 \mathrm{~mm}$ FL, indicating the increased number of fish is due to recruitment of juveniles to the adult segment of the population.

### 6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- Population monitoring was conducted in spring 2018 to derive an adult Lake Sturgeon population estimate and examine size and condition of the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake sturgeon populations.
- A total of 476 individual Lake Sturgeon were captured. Of these, 235 were caught in the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids, with 132 of these classified as adults ( $\geq 800 \mathrm{~mm}$ ). In Stephens Lake, 241 Lake Sturgeon were captured, with 173 of these classified as adults.
- Of the 235 Lake Sturgeon captured upstream of Gull Rapids, 18 were in spawning condition: 13 pre-spawn and four ripe males; and one female that was preparing to spawn. Downstream of Gull Rapids, 32 of the 241 Lake Sturgeon captured were in spawning condition, all of which were identified as males: 11 were preparing to spawn; 15 were ripe; and six were spent.
- Mark-recapture data indicate that long-range movements are rare and that fish tend to stay in the area in which they were originally tagged. Continued monitoring will reveal if long-range upstream movements become more common as construction of the Keeyask GS progresses. Emigration of Lake Sturgeon in response to water level changes in the future Keeyask reservoir was identified as a potential effect of the construction of the Keeyask GS.
- Key questions in the AEMP related to Lake Sturgeon monitoring in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake are addressed below:
- Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically significant) change in the rate of population growth for the future Keeyask reservoir?

The 2018 population estimate for the future Keeyask reservoir did not differ significantly from the 2014 or 2016 estimates. However, the overall abundance estimates calculated between 2001 and 2018 show a significant increasing trend over time.

Population size in Stephens Lake was estimated for the first time in 2018. The 2018 estimate did not differ significantly from the 2014 or 2016 estimates. However, as in the future Keeyask reservoir, the overall abundance estimates calculated between 2001 and 2018 show a significant increasing trend over time.

- Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically significant) change in survival for the future Keeyask reservoir population?

Inclusion of the 2018 data into the calculated survival rate for the 2004-2018 period indicates that survival of adult Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir remains high (91\%). There was no difference in pre-construction
(2004 to 2014) and construction (2015 to 2018) survival rates (91\%). Survival was calculated for the first time in Stephens Lake. Survival was higher during construction (2015 to 2018; 94\%) than pre-construction (2001 to 2014; 86\%).

- Is there a biologically relevant (and statistically observable) change in the condition factor of Lake Sturgeon?

Condition factor of sturgeon captured during baseline monitoring and construction were similar for all size classes in the future Keeyask reservoir. However, mean condition factor was significantly lower than baseline for one size class of adults in Stephens Lake (1,000-1,049 mm FL). Future monitoring will determine if this trend continues. It should be noted, however, that the condition factor in Lake Sturgeon can vary considerably between years, and that the average condition factor from both areas continues to measure between 0.82 and 0.90 , which is typical for adult Lake Sturgeon in Manitoba.

- Is the relative abundance/CPUE of adult Lake Sturgeon in Stephens Lake changing?

The CPUE of Lake Sturgeon in 2018 ( 0.36 LKWH/45.7 m/24 h) was higher than those reported in previous years with comparable sampling programs (0.02-0.10 LKST/45.7 m/24 h), and indicates the population is likely increasing. Future monitoring will determine if this trend continues.

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## TABLES

Table 1: Number of fish, by species, captured during adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring in the future Keeyask reservoir (24 May-1 July) and Stephens Lake (27 May-30 June), spring 2018.

| Species | Scientific Name | Abbreviation | Nelson <br> River <br> $\left(\right.$ CL-GR $\left.^{2}\right)$ | Stephens <br> Lake | Total |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lake Sturgeon | Acipenser fu/vescens | LKST | $\mathbf{2 3 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 1}$ | $\mathbf{4 7 6}$ |
| Longnose Sucker | Catostomus catostomus | LNSC | - | 1 | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| Northern Pike | Esox lucius | NRPK | 7 | 17 | $\mathbf{2 4}$ |
| Sauger | Sander canadensis | SAUG | - | 16 | $\mathbf{1 6}$ |
| Walleye | Sander vitreus | WALL | 4 | 23 | $\mathbf{2 7}$ |
| Total $^{\mathbf{1}}$ |  |  | $\mathbf{2 4 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 9 8}$ | $\mathbf{5 4 4}$ |

1. Does not include fish recaptured in the same waterbody in the season/year in which they were tagged.
2. Nelson River from Clark Lake (CL) to Gull Rapids (GR).

Table 2:
Lake Sturgeon catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; \# LKST/45.7 m net/24 h) values observed during mark/recapture studies in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake from 2001-2018.

| Location | Year | \# Sites | Total Lake Sturgeon ${ }^{1}$ | Total Gillnet Hours ${ }^{5}$ | Total CPUE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (BR-GR) ${ }^{\mathbf{2}}$ | 2001 | 37 | 60 | 4538 | 0.32 |
|  | 2002 | 19 | 59 | 4918 | 0.29 |
|  | 2003 | 30 | 85 | 7565 | 0.27 |
|  | 2004 | 17 | 51 | 6907 | 0.18 |
|  | 2006 | 22 | 150 | 12587 | 0.29 |
|  | 2008 | 16 | 52 | 9960 | 0.13 |
|  | 2010 | 18 | 65 | 9128 | 0.17 |
|  | 2011 | 34 | 33 | 6734 | 0.12 |
|  | 2012 | 32 | 114 | 10018 | 0.27 |
|  | 2014 | 62 | 239 | 17897 | 0.32 |
|  | 2016 | 55 | 189 | 15503 | 0.29 |
|  | 2018 | 49 | 232 | 16763 | 0.33 |
| Stephens Lake ${ }^{3}$ | 2001 | 18 | 24 | 6254 | 0.09 |
|  | 2002 | 15 | 4 | 3250 | 0.03 |
|  | 2003 | 29 | 24 | 9638 | 0.06 |
|  | 2004 | 8 | 5 | 4638 | 0.03 |
|  | 2005 | 35 | 6 | 7933 | 0.02 |
|  | 2006 | 21 | 13 | 6084 | 0.05 |
|  | 2010 | 37 | 17 | 4898 | 0.08 |
|  | 2011 | 49 | 18 | 6663 | 0.06 |
|  | $2012{ }^{4}$ | 23 | 15 | 3555 | 0.10 |
|  | $2014{ }^{4}$ | 5 | 9 | 473 | 0.46 |
|  | 2016 | 90 | 71 | 17037 | 0.10 |
|  | 2018 | 62 | 241 | 15863 | 0.36 |

1. Does not include fish recaptured in the same waterbody in the season/year in which they were tagged.
2. Nelson River from Birthday Rapids (BR) to Gull Rapids (GR). The catch and effort from gillnetting in the reach upstream of Birthday Rapids (i.e., zones BR-U, CL-A, SPL-F) has been excluded from this table in the years it was conducted.
3. The catch and effort from gillnetting conducted in other areas of Stephens Lake other than the reach downstream of Gull Rapids (i.e., zones GR-A, STL-A, and STL-B) have been excluded from this table in the years it was conducted.
4. CPUE value reflects study objective (i.e., fish were captured for acoustic tagging) and may not be comparable to studies conducted in other years.
5. The effort has been corrected to account for panel length. For example, the duration of a gillnet gangs consisting of 4 panels (i.e., 91.4 m long) was doubled (i.e., equivalent of two 45.7 m gang sets).

Table 3: Number and catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; \# LKST/45.7 m net/24 h) values, by zone, observed during adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake, spring 2018.

| Location | Zone | \# Sites | Total \# Lake <br> Sturgeon | Total Gillnet <br> Hours $^{\mathbf{1}}$ | Total <br> CPUE |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (CL-GR $\left.{ }^{\mathbf{3}}\right)$ | BR-U | 4 | 3 | 1136 | 0.06 |
|  | BR-D | 22 | 103 | 9233 | 0.27 |
|  | GL-A | 5 | 26 | 1660 | 0.38 |
|  | GL-B | 12 | 53 | 3119 | 0.41 |
| Stephens Lake | GL-C | 10 | 50 | 2752 | 0.44 |
|  | GR-A | 11 | 61 | 3080 | 0.48 |
|  | STL-A | 38 | 165 | 10461 | 0.38 |
|  | STL-B | 13 | 15 | 2321 | 0.16 |

1. Does not include fish recaptured in the same waterbody in the season/year in which they were tagged.
2. The effort ( h ) has been corrected to account for panel length set at each site. For example, the duration of a gillnet gang consisting of 4 panels (i.e., 91.4 m long) was doubled (i.e., equivalent of two 45.7 m gang sets).
3. Nelson River from Clark Lake (CL) to Gull Rapids (GR).

Table 4: Fork length (mm), weight (g), and relative condition factor ( K ) of Lake Sturgeon captured during adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring in the future Keeyask reservoir, spring 2001-2018.

| Location | Year | Fork Length (mm) |  |  |  | Weight (g) |  |  |  | K |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\mathrm{n}^{2}$ | Mean | Std ${ }^{3}$ | Range | n | Mean | Std | Range | n | Mean | Range |
| Nelson River$(B R-G R)^{1}$ | 2001 | 79 | 1022 | 148 | 739-1355 | 78 | 9984 | 5059 | 3500-24000 | 78 | 0.88 | 0.64-1.26 |
|  | 2002 | 67 | 1055 | 149 | 680-1415 | 66 | 12198 | 6367 | 2722-34020 | 66 | 0.97 | 0.73-1.44 |
|  | 2003 | 52 | 1067 | 148 | 700-1540 | 87 | 11949 | 6681 | 3000-54431 | 87 | 0.94 | 0.67-1.49 |
|  | 2004 | 51 | 1149 | 152 | 870-1468 | 51 | 14115 | 6747 | 5443-31298 | 51 | 0.87 | 0.67-1.10 |
|  | 2006 | 150 | 1003 | 217 | 300-1550 | 146 | 10343 | 7071 | 1134-43091 | 146 | 0.86 | 0.61-1.44 |
|  | 2008 | 52 | 1057 | 223 | 648-1551 | 50 | 12186 | 8207 | 2268-40823 | 50 | 0.87 | 0.66-1.09 |
|  | 2010 | 65 | 901 | 267 | 443-1390 | 65 | 8056 | 6977 | 500-29937 | 65 | 0.83 | 0.57-1.11 |
|  | 2011* | 34 | 1090 | 219 | 664-1610 | 34 | 13209 | 9052 | 2268-43092 | 34 | 0.89 | 0.61-1.19 |
|  | 2012* | 116 | 844 | 284 | 330-1620 | 116 | 7536 | 8214 | 200-37648 | 116 | 0.85 | 0.51-1.23 |
|  | 2014 | 239 | 838 | 229 | 449-1640 | 238 | 6111 | 5873 | 650-29710 | 238 | 0.82 | 0.38-1.39 |
|  | 2016* | 189 | 872 | 229 | 301-1439 | 184 | 7569 | 6531 | 227-33566 | 184 | 0.90 | 0.49-1.46 |
|  | 2018* | 235 | 850 | 189 | 436-1550 | 235 | 5960 | 4960 | 318-30844 | 235 | 0.81 | 0.28-1.43 |

1. Nelson River from Birthday Rapids (BR) to Gull Rapids (GR). An * indicates that a few individuals from the Nelson River between Clark Lake to Birthday Rapids are included in the analysis.
2. Number of fish measured.
3. Standard deviation.

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Table 5: $\quad$ Fork length ( mm ), weight ( g ), and relative condition factor ( K ) of Lake Sturgeon captured during adult Lake Sturgeon population monitoring in Stephens Lake, spring 2001-2018.

| Location | Year | Fork Length (mm) |  |  |  | Weight (g) |  |  |  | K |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\mathrm{n}^{2}$ | Mean | $\mathbf{S t d}^{\mathbf{3}}$ | Range | n | Mean | Std | Range | n | Mean | Range |
| Stephens Lake ${ }^{1}$ | 2001 | 24 | 1077 | 181 | 792-1447 | 24 | 13148 | 9499 | 4400-40000 | 24 | 0.94 | 0.71-1.56 |
|  | 2002 | 4 | 1045 | 51 | 1001-1100 | 4 | 10888 | 2995 | 8050-15000 | 4 | 0.94 | 0.80-1.13 |
|  | 2003 | 24 | 1018 | 206 | 555-1340 | 23 | 11212 | 7205 | 1700-26000 | 23 | 0.90 | 0.61-1.20 |
|  | 2004 | 5 | 1180 | 112 | 1025-1324 | 4 | 15347 | 4577 | 9450-20412 | 4 | 0.97 | 0.72-1.32 |
|  | 2005** | 7 | 922 | 130 | 763-1100 | 7 | 8701 | 4989 | 3636-15455 | 7 | 1.00 | 0.82-1.44 |
|  | 2006** | 14 | 1144 | 162 | 902-1421 | 13 | 13224 | 6071 | 5897-24948 | 13 | 0.86 | 0.73-1.03 |
|  | 2010 | 17 | 1028 | 162 | 730-1349 | 16 | 9993 | 5272 | 3200-24040 | 16 | 0.83 | 0.65-0.98 |
|  | 2011 | 18 | 890 | 255 | 362-1208 | 12 | 9053 | 3984 | 1082-16556 | 12 | 0.87 | 0.76-0.99 |
|  | 2012 | 15 | 896 | 144 | 645-1176 | 11 | 7468 | 3113 | 3901-14969 | 11 | 0.92 | 0.74-1.07 |
|  | 2014 | 9 | 941 | 115 | 810-1150 | 9 | 6854 | 3374 | 4082-13608 | 9 | 0.77 | 0.66-1.01 |
|  | 2016 | 71 | 902 | 152 | 343-1425 | 69 | 6740 | 3540 | 253-22680 | 69 | 0.85 | 0.63-1.20 |
|  | 2018 | 240 | 901 | 159 | 361-1411 | 240 | 6692 | 3951 | 250-27125 | 239 | 0.83 | 0.43-1.53 |

1. The portion of Stephens Lake downstream of Gull Rapids. An ** indicates a few individuals from elsewhere in Stephens Lake are included in the analysis.
2. Number of fish measured.
3. Standard deviation.

Table 6: Sex and maturity data for Lake Sturgeon captured in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake during adult population monitoring, spring, 2001-2018.

| Location | Year | Sex and Maturity ${ }^{3}$ |  |  |  |  |  | \# of Spawners ${ }^{4}$ | Unknown Maturity | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Male |  |  | Female |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Nelson River (BRL-GR) ${ }^{1}$ | 2001 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 19 | 41 | 60 |
|  | 2002 | 8 | 1 | 5 | - | - | - | 14 | 46 | 60 |
|  | 2003 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 | 89 | 93 |
|  | 2004 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 5 | 46 | 51 |
|  | 2006 | 13 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 16 | 134 | 150 |
|  | 2008 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 49 | 52 |
|  | 2010 | 5 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 8 | 57 | 65 |
|  | 2011* | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 19 | 34 |
|  | 2012* | 1 | 4 | 2 | - | - | - | 7 | 109 | 116 |
|  | 2014 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | - | 3 | 21 | 227 | 248 |
|  | 2016* | 16 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 22 | 168 | 190 |
|  | 2018* | 13 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | 18 | 217 | 235 |
| Stephens Lake ${ }^{2}$ | 2001 | 5 | - | - | 3 | - | - | 8 | 16 | 24 |
|  | 2002 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 4 |
|  | 2003 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 | 21 | 24 |
|  | 2004 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 5 |
|  | 2005** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | 7 |
|  | 2006** | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 15 | 16 |
|  | 2010 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 17 | 17 |
|  | 2011 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 29 | 30 |
|  | 2012 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 4 | 11 | 15 |
|  | 2014 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 7 | 9 |
|  | 2016 | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 8 | 63 | 71 |
|  | 2018 | 11 | 15 | 6 | - | - | - | 30 | 211 | 241 |

1. Nelson River from Birthday Rapids (BR) to Gull Rapids (GR). An * indicates that a few individuals from the Nelson River between Clark Lake to Birthday Rapids are included in the analysis.
2. The portion of Stephens Lake downstream of Gull Rapids. An ** indicates a few individuals from elsewhere in Stephens Lake are included in the analysis.
3. Refer to Section 3.1 for maturity codes.
4. Maturity status columns include recaptures of fish whose maturity status progressed between captures (e.g., would include recaptures of fish initially captured in maturing condition and recaptured in ripe or spent condition), but the columns may not add up to the "\# of Spawners" column since this only includes individual fish captured (i.e., CYTR that were captured in different maturity classifications were only counted once).

Table 7: Recapture data for Lake Sturgeon captured in the future Keeyask reservoir during adult population monitoring, spring, 2002-2018.

| Recapture Location | Year | Original Tagging Location |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total Recaptures ${ }^{2}$ | Total Captured | \% Recaptures |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Kelsey GS Area | Split <br> Lake | Upstream Birthday Rapids | Downstream Birthday Rapids | Gull <br> Lake | Stephens Lake | Unknown |  |  |  |
| Nelson River (BR-GR ${ }^{1}$ ) | 2002 |  |  |  | 6 | 9 |  |  | 15 | 59 | 25.4 |
|  | 2003 | - | - | - | 10 | 5 | 1 | - | 16 | 85 | 18.8 |
|  | 2004 | - | - | - | 11 | 4 | - | - | 15 | 51 | 29.4 |
|  | 2006 | - | - | - | 23 | 2 | - | - | 25 | 150 | 16.7 |
|  | 2008 | 1 | - | - | 16 | 7 | - | - | 24 | 52 | 46.2 |
|  | 2010 | - | - | - | 11 | 9 | 1 | - | 21 | 65 | 32.3 |
|  | 2011* | - | - | - | 10 | 4 | - | 1 | 15 | 34 | 44.1 |
|  | 2012* | - | - | - | 6 | 27 | - | - | 33 | 116 | 28.4 |
|  | 2014 | 1 | 1 | - | 16 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 70 | 239 | 29.3 |
|  | 2016* | 1 | - | - | 20 | 51 | 2 | 2 | 76 | 190 | 40.0 |
|  | 2018* | - | - | - | 16 | 57 | - | 1 | 74 | 235 | 31.5 |

1. Nelson River from Birthday Rapids (BR) to Gull Rapids (GR). An * indicates that a few individuals from the Nelson River between Clark Lake to Birthday Rapids are included in the analysis.
2. Does not include fish recaptured in the same waterbody in the season/year in which they were tagged nor does it include hatchery fish that were captured in gill nets for the first time.

Table 8: Recapture data for Lake Sturgeon captured in Stephens Lake during adult population monitoring, spring, 20022018.

| Recapture Location | Year | Original Tagging Location |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total Recaptures ${ }^{2}$ | Total Captured | \% <br> Recaptures |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Kelsey GS Area | Split <br> Lake | Upstream Birthday Rapids | Downstream Birthday Rapids | Gull <br> Lake | Stephens Lake | Unknown |  |  |  |
| Stephens Lake ${ }^{1}$ | 2002 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 4 | 0.0 |
|  | 2003 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | 4 | 24 | 16.7 |
|  | 2004 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 3 | 5 | 60.0 |
|  | 2005** | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | 7 | 28.6 |
|  | 2006** | - | - | - | - | 2 | 7 | - | 9 | 14 | 64.3 |
|  | 2010 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 8 | - | 10 | 17 | 58.8 |
|  | 2011 | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 6 | 18 | 33.3 |
|  | 2012 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 5 | - | 6 | 15 | 40.0 |
|  | 2014 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | 4 | 9 | 44.4 |
|  | 2016 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 15 | - | 16 | 71 | 22.5 |
|  | 2018 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 81 | - | 87 | 241 | 36.1 |

1. The portion of Stephens Lake downstream of Gull Rapids. An ** indicates a few individuals from elsewhere in Stephens Lake are included in the analysis.
2. Does not include fish recaptured in the same waterbody in the season/year in which they were tagged nor does it include hatchery fish that were captured in gill nets for the first time.

## FIGURES



Figure 1: Mean daily water temperature in the Nelson River mainstem, 24 May-1 July, 2018.

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Adult lake Sturgeon Population


Figure 2: Length-frequency distribution for Lake Sturgeon captured in large mesh gill nets set in the future Keeyask reservoir, spring 2018.


Figure 3:
Mean condition factor by $\mathbf{5 0} \mathbf{~ m m}$ length intervals for adult ( $\geq \mathbf{8 0 0} \mathbf{~ m m}$ ) Lake Sturgeon captured in the future Keeyask reservoir during baseline studies (red bars) and construction monitoring (blue bars). There were no significant differences between groups (Mann Whitney U test, p < 0.05). Error bars represent standard deviations.

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Figure 4: Length-weight regression for Lake Sturgeon captured in large mesh gill nets set in the future Keeyask reservoir, spring 2018.


Figure 5:
Adult Lake Sturgeon abundance estimates based on POPAN best model for the future Keeyask reservoir (19952018). Horizontal line inside the box represents the estimated abundance (i.e., the number of adult Lake Sturgeon in the area during the time of capture), the red dots represent the minimum and maximum estimates, and the vertical bar lines represent the upper and lower $95 \%$ confidence intervals.

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Figure 6: Analysis of change in mean population abundance estimates for the future Keeyask reservoir between one sample period (2016 to 2018) and two sampling periods ( 2014 to 2018). A significant change from the 2014 estimate would be a $16 \%$ decrease or a $18 \%$ increase. A significant change from the 2016 estimate would be a $14 \%$ decrease or a $16 \%$ increase. The mean population estimate in 2018 showed a $2 \%$ increase from 2014 and a 10\% increase from 2016.

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Figure 7:
Abundance estimates for adult Lake Sturgeon in the future Keeyask reservoir by sampling year (2001-2018) showing a significant positive trend.

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Figure 8: Length-frequency distribution for Lake Sturgeon captured in large mesh gill nets set in Stephens Lake, spring 2018.


Figure 9: Mean condition factor by $\mathbf{5 0} \mathbf{~ m m}$ length intervals for adult ( $\geq \mathbf{8 0 0} \mathbf{~ m m}$ ) Lake Sturgeon captured in Stephens Lake during baseline studies (red bars) and construction monitoring (blue bars). Letters denote significant differences between groups (Mann Whitney U test, p < 0.05). Error bars represent standard deviations.

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Figure 10: Length-weight regression for Lake Sturgeon captured in large mesh gill nets set in Stephens Lake, spring 2018.

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Figure 11: Adult Lake Sturgeon abundance estimates based on POPAN best model for Stephens Lake (2001-2018). Horizontal line inside the box represents the estimated abundance (i.e., the number of adult Lake Sturgeon in the area during the time of capture), the red dots represent the minimum and maximum estimates, and the vertical bar lines represent the upper and lower 95\% confidence intervals.

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Figure 12: Analysis of change in mean population abundance estimates for Stephens Lake between one sample period ( 2016 to 2018) and two sampling periods (2014 to 2018). A significant change from the 2014 estimate would be a 39\% decrease or a 52\% increase. A significant change from the 2016 estimate would be a $15 \%$ decrease or a $17 \%$ increase. The mean population estimate in 2018 showed a 37\% increase from 2014 and a 12\% decrease from 2016.


Figure 13: Abundance estimates for adult Lake Sturgeon in Stephens Lake by sampling year (2001-2018) showing a significant positive trend.

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
Adult lake Sturgeon Population

## MAPS



Map 1:
Map of the Keeyask Study Area.

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
Adult Lake Sturgeon Population


Map 2: $\quad$ Sites fished with large mesh gill net gangs in the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids (i.e., the future Keeyask reservoir), spring 2018.

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
adult Lake Sturgeon Population


Map 3: Sites fished with large mesh gill net gangs in Stephens Lake, spring 2018.

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan


Satellite Imagery - October 12th, 2018

Map 4:
Map of instream structures at the Keeyask Generating Station site, October 2018.

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
Adult Lake Sturgeon Population

## APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1: <br> TAGGING AND BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION FOR LAKE STURGEON CAPTURED UPSTREAM OF GULL RAPIDS AND IN STEPHENS LAKE IN SPRING, 2018 

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018.<br>55

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018.

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 01-Jul-18 | NSC | 79408 | 900226000628771 | 684 | 776 | 2450 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 79410 | 900226000154216 | 904 | 1036 | 6150 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 79412 | 900226000893283 | 713 | 799 | 2350 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 79413 | 900226000154217 | 608 | 690 | 1700 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 79414 | 900226000628944 | 804 | 904 | 4000 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 79415 | 900226000893260 | 793 | 881 | 3600 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 29-Jun-18 | NSC | 79416 | 900226000893427 | 800 | 900 | 3650 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 29-Jun-18 | NSC | 79418 | 900226000893365 | 730 | 825 | 2750 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 29-Jun-18 | NSC | 79419 | 900226000577193 | 674 | 770 | 2100 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 29-Jun-18 | NSC | 79420 | 900226000629595 | 920 | 1018 | 5900 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 29-Jun-18 | NSC | 79421 | 900226000628773 | 915 | 1042 | 5700 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 29-Jun-18 | NSC | 79422 | 900226000893400 | 764 | 858 | 3450 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 29-Jun-18 | NSC | 79423 | 900226000628999 | 704 | 809 | 2800 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 28-Jun-18 | NSC | 79424 | 900226000628950 | 684 | 768 | 2550 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 28-Jun-18 | NSC | 79425 | 900226000154259 | 656 | 749 | 2025 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 91529 | 900226000768778 | 1081 | 1198 | 10251 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 91530 | 900226000768793 | 823 | 933 | 5000 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 91531 | 900226000767413 | 764 | 840 | 3900 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 91532 | 900226000767464 | 927 | 1010 | 7600 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 30-Jun-18 | NSC | 91533 | 900226000767472 | 756 | 859 | 4000 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 27-Jun-18 | NSC | 110701 | 900226000767443 | 765 | 862 | 3750 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 27-Jun-18 | NSC | 110702 | 900226000767496 | 795 | 905 | 4300 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 110703 | 900226000154041 | 1021 | 1142 | 8709 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 110704 | 900226000768510 | 952 | 1054 | 6622 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 110705 | 900226000768920 | 890 | 977 | 4750 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 24-Jun-18 | NSC | 110706 | 900226000768576 | 1034 | 1145 | 7850 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 23-Jun-18 | NSC | 110707 | 900226000767462 | 1000 | 1096 | 7350 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 110708 | 900226000153925 | 738 | 820 | 3350 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 110709 | 900226000768613 | 823 | 891 | 4700 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 110710 | 900226000767409 | 978 | 1091 | 8550 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 110711 | 900226000768942 | 830 | 939 | 4700 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 110712 | 900226000154057 | 1251 | 1390 | 16057 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 110714 | 900226000767132 | 714 | 795 | 2800 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 110715 | 900226000154055 | 822 | 920 | 4050 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 110716 | 900226000154014 | 1050 | 1164 | 4990 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 110717 | 900226000768903 | 602 | 675 | 1750 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 110719 | 900226000768015 | 747 | 832 | 3650 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 17-Jun-18 | NSC | 110720 | 900226000768997 | 934 | 1045 | 6250 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 16-Jun-18 | NSC | 110721 | 900226000768977 | 920 | 1008 | 5050 | M | 9 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 15-Jun-18 | NSC | 110722 | 900226000153899 | 912 | 1014 | 6450 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 15-Jun-18 | NSC | 110723 | 900226000768595 | 702 | 783 | 2450 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 110724 | 900226000153814 | 812 | 895 | 4750 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 110725 | 900226000768992 | 845 | 939 | 6250 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 26-May-18 | NSC | 111751 | 900226000767048 | 658 | 739 | 2858 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 26-May-18 | NSC | 111752 | 900226000767045 | 940 | 1051 | 7847 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 27-May-18 | NSC | 111753 | 900226000767051 | 502 | 578 | 1724 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 28-May-18 | NSC | 111754 | 900226000767027 | 901 | 1010 | 6985 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 29-May-18 | NSC | 111756 | 900226000767004 | 904 | 1028 | 4717 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 29-May-18 | NSC | 111757 | 900226000767033 | 855 | 963 | 7484 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 29-May-18 | NSC | 111758 | 900226000767044 | 1031 | 1152 | 11068 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-18 | NSC | 111759 | 900226000767042 | 863 | 964 | 4853 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-18 | NSC | 111760 | 900226000767029 | 744 | 845 | 3130 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-18 | NSC | 111761 | 900226000767038 | 920 | 1031 | 4899 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-18 | NSC | 111762 | 900226000767062 | 921 | 1028 | 6169 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-18 | NSC | 111763 | 900226000767096 | 774 | 865 | 5534 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-18 | NSC | 111764 | 900226000767094 | 950 | 1042 | 9435 | M | 7 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-18 | NSC | 111765 | 900226000767019 | 1431 | 1479 | 21319 | F | 2 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 31-May-18 | NSC | 111766 | 900226000767099 | 901 | 996 | 7167 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 31-May-18 | NSC | 111767 | 900226000628383 | 559 | 640 | 1950 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 31-May-18 | NSC | 111768 | 900226000767046 | 740 | 824 | 4082 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 31-May-18 | NSC | 111769 | 900226000893691 | 905 | 1020 | 7303 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 111771 | 900226000767066 | 860 | 961 | 6577 | M | 7 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 02-Jun-18 | NSC | 111772 | 900226000767090 | 931 | 1041 | 8936 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 02-Jun-18 | NSC | 111773 | 900226000767077 | 921 | 1053 | 9208 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 02-Jun-18 | NSC | 111774 | 900226000767080 | 878 | 984 | 6759 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 02-Jun-18 | NSC | 111775 | 900226000893919 | 736 | 845 | 4536 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 111778 | 900226000767021 | 925 | 1036 | 7983 | M | 7 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 18-Jun-18 | NSC | 111901 | 900226000768933 | 740 | 828 | 3221 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 18-Jun-18 | NSC | 111902 | 900226000628949 | 980 | 1078 | 8029 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 19-Jun-18 | NSC | 111903 | 900226000629738 | 520 | 576 | 998 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 19-Jun-18 | NSC | 111904 | 900226000767059 | 759 | 862 | 3765 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 19-Jun-18 | NSC | 111905 | 900226000154226 | 773 | 885 | 3221 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 19-Jun-18 | NSC | 111906 | 900226000767087 | 805 | 906 | 3674 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 19-Jun-18 | NSC | 111907 | 900226000703372 | 700 | 791 | 3538 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 19-Jun-18 | NSC | 111908 | 900226000577071 | 971 | 1083 | 7212 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 111909 | 900226000893432 | 701 | 805 | 3674 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 111910 | 900226000768242 | 513 | 584 | 1043 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 111911 | 900226000893330 | 835 | 922 | 4445 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 111912 | 900226000629610 | 900 | 949 | 5715 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 111913 | 900226000767010 | 815 | 895 | 3810 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 111913 | 900226000153402 | 800 | 904 | 5035 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 111914 | 900226000629569 | 931 | 1036 | 7394 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 111915 | 900226000629636 | 656 | 740 | 1724 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 111916 | 900226000767097 | 748 | 843 | 3084 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 111917 | 900226000153867 | 770 | 874 | 3583 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 111918 | 900226000893337 | 803 | 904 | 3311 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 111919 | 900226000893311 | 759 | 850 | 3084 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 111920 | 900226000628976 | 821 | 920 | 4128 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 111921 | 900226000629626 | 628 | 723 | 2223 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 111922 | 900226000629664 | 720 | 804 | 2585 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 111923 | 900226000628877 | 850 | 960 | 4717 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 111924 | 900226000154204 | 904 | 1013 | 6260 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 111925 | 900226000629506 | 795 | 877 | 3719 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 111926 | 900226000767003 | 842 | 946 | 3992 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 13-Jun-18 | NSC | 111927 | 900226000154077 | 1002 | 1136 | 7938 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 111928 | 900226000767055 | 892 | 997 | 6033 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 111929 | 900226000767002 | 746 | 831 | 2767 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 111930 | 900226000768650 | 810 | 905 | 3901 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 111931 | 900226000768098 | 1390 | - | 30119 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 111932 | 900226000767060 | 634 | 716 | 1814 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Table A1-1: $\quad$ Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 15-Jun-18 | NSC | 111933 | 900226000153978 | 664 | 706 | 1905 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 15-Jun-18 | NSC | 111934 | 900226000767039 | 834 | 948 | 3992 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 15-Jun-18 | NSC | 111935 | 900226000767043 | 1475 | - | 25537 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 15-Jun-18 | NSC | 111936 | 900226000893390 | 714 | 797 | 3130 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 15-Jun-18 | NSC | 111937 | 900226000768988 | 745 | 842 | 3447 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 16-Jun-18 | NSC | 111938 | 900226000628931 | 711 | 815 | 2812 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 16-Jun-18 | NSC | 111939 | 900226000768056 | 652 | 738 | 1814 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 16-Jun-18 | NSC | 111940 | 900226000767064 | 890 | 1002 | 5443 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 16-Jun-18 | NSC | 111941 | 900226000122776 | 651 | 741 | 1497 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 16-Jun-18 | NSC | 111942 | 900226000154026 | 496 | 548 | 680 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 17-Jun-18 | NSC | 111943 | 900226000154248 | 732 | 840 | 3039 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 17-Jun-18 | NSC | 111944 | 900226000893293 | 842 | 950 | 4627 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 17-Jun-18 | NSC | 111945 | 900226000153446 | 1015 | 1141 | 7620 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 17-Jun-18 | NSC | 111946 | 900226000893495 | 771 | 875 | 3447 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 17-Jun-18 | NSC | 111947 | 900226000893336 | 889 | 990 | 5761 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 18-Jun-18 | NSC | 111948 | 900226000629557 | 694 | 780 | 2858 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 18-Jun-18 | NSC | 111949 | 900226000629558 | 760 | 861 | 3765 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 18-Jun-18 | NSC | 111950 | 900226000768927 | 676 | 768 | 2268 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 111951 | 900226000767001 | 800 | 887 | 3266 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 111952 | 900226000767005 | 825 | 935 | 7167 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 111953 | 900226000767076 | 768 | 863 | 5851 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 111954 | 900226000767063 | 670 | 752 | 4309 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 111955 | 900226000767067 | 665 | 727 | 3856 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 05-Jun-18 | NSC | 111956 | 900226000767070 | 1094 | 1210 | 11521 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 05-Jun-18 | NSC | 111957 | 900226000767007 | 1180 | 1284 | 10659 | M | 7 |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 05-Jun-18 | NSC | 111958 | 900226000767054 | 871 | 982 | 2404 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 05-Jun-18 | NSC | 111959 | 900226000767052 | 790 | 921 | 3311 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111960 | 900226000767040 | 943 | 1058 | 5625 | M | 7 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111961 | 900226000767000 | 935 | 1036 | 8981 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111962 | 900226000767049 | 1235 | 1350 | 19232 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111963 | 900226000893790 | 1178 | 1317 | 15331 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111964 | 900226000767009 | 745 | 831 | 3084 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111965 | 900226000767050 | 811 | 910 | 3901 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111966 | 900226000767041 | 665 | 768 | 2041 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111967 | 900226000767026 | 868 | 996 | 4853 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111968 | 900226000767035 | 760 | 864 | 2631 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 111969 | 900226000767031 | 628 | 716 | 1950 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 111970 | 900226000767073 | 1235 | 1370 | 14651 | M | 8 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 111971 | 900226000767079 | 1112 | 1192 | 9435 | M | 8 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 111972 | 900226000767083 | 734 | 831 | 2722 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 111973 | 900226000767075 | 864 | 978 | 5216 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 111974 | 900226000768107 | 896 | 998 | 6260 | M | 8 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 111975 | 900226000767074 | 896 | 1012 | 6078 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 111976 | 900226000767071 | 800 | 895 | 4581 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 111977 | 900226000768121 | 820 | 921 | 4944 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 111978 | 900226000893952 | 845 | 951 | 5216 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 111980 | 900226000767093 | 798 | 885 | 4354 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 111981 | 900226000768051 | 667 | 746 | 1950 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 111982 | 900226000767078 | 785 | 870 | 3810 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 111983 | 900226000767092 | 805 | 922 | 5534 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111984 | 900226000767061 | 693 | 778 | 2359 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111985 | 900226000767089 | 664 | 746 | 2268 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111986 | 900226000767085 | 625 | 702 | 1678 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111987 | 900226000767017 | 532 | 605 | 1043 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111988 | 900226000768610 | 722 | 811 | 2722 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111989 | 900226000767028 | 920 | 1026 | 6260 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111990 | 900226000767047 | 795 | 890 | 4037 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111992 | 900226000768587 | 1020 | 1150 | 8845 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 111995 | 900226000767014 | 658 | 735 | 1724 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 111997 | 900226000768133 | 845 | 944 | 5216 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 111998 | 900226000767091 | 924 | 1012 | 6350 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 111999 | 900226000767068 | 1550 | - | 30844 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 112000 | 900226000153132 | 888 | 1011 | 7076 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 112276 | 900226000628967 | 803 | 916 | 3765 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 112277 | 900226000629583 | 796 | 888 | 4128 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 112278 | 900226000122766 | 620 | 794 | 1860 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 112279 | 900226000893453 | 475 | 538 | 726 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 112280 | 900226000893342 | 895 | 996 | 5942 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 23-Jun-18 | NSC | 112281 | 900226000154289 | 1120 | 1238 | 12565 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 24-Jun-18 | NSC | 112283 | 900226000153496 | 802 | 886 | 4173 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 24-Jun-18 | NSC | 112284 | 900226000154215 | 710 | 794 | 2449 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 24-Jun-18 | NSC | 112285 | 900226000154256 | 668 | 743 | 2132 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 24-Jun-18 | NSC | 112286 | 900226000893272 | 436 | 494 | 499 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 24-Jun-18 | NSC | 112287 | 900226000893264 | 984 | 988 | 5262 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 112290 | 900226000628791 | 736 | 845 | 2631 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
Adult Lake Sturgeon Population

Table A1-1: $\quad$ Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 112288 / 112289 | 900226000893398 | 941 | 1030 | 6895 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 112291 | 900226000154287 | 768 | 863 | 3765 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 112292 | 900226000629702 | 680 | 773 | 2313 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 112293 | 900226000893306 | 634 | 708 | 1724 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 25-Jun-18 | NSC | 112294 | 900226000153804 | 894 | 1001 | 5171 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 26-Jun-18 | NSC | 112295 | 900226000893367 | 662 | 742 | 1950 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 26-Jun-18 | NSC | 112296 | 900226000893431 | 694 | 786 | 2404 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 27-Jun-18 | NSC | 112297 | 900226000768544 | 788 | 895 | 4309 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 27-Jun-18 | NSC | 112298 | 900226000893286 | 690 | 791 | 2359 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 28-Jun-18 | NSC | 112299 | 900226000628906 | 704 | - | 2400 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 28-Jun-18 | NSC | 112300 | 900226000893276 | 866 | 986 | 5250 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-U | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 112563 | - | 930 | 1029 | 7257 | M | 7 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 28-May-18 | NSC | 115726 | 900226000768208 | 760 | 858 | 3150 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115727 | 900226000893375 | 1000 | 1125 | 7212 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 29-May-18 | NSC | 115728 | 900226000893445 | 930 | 1032 | 7303 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 29-May-18 | NSC | 115729 | 900226000768093 | 1067 | 1185 | 10387 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 29-May-18 | NSC | 115730 | 900226000893477 | 1110 | 1230 | 11022 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 29-May-18 | NSC | 115731 | 900226000893287 | 946 | 1038 | 6260 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115733 | 900226000548923 | 836 | 948 | 5225 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115734 | 900226000893291 | 860 | 964 | 4925 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115735 | 900226000893372 | 830 | 933 | 5000 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115736 | 900226000893351 | 886 | 990 | 7666 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115737 | 900226000893298 | 982 | 1093 | 7802 | M | 7 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115738 | 900226000768013 | 518 | 586 | 1050 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115739 | 900226000893394 | 790 | 893 | 3875 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
Adult Lake Sturgeon Population

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115740 | 900226000767151 | 1132 | 1265 | 13608 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115741 | 900226000893345 | 1310 | 1440 | 21863 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115742 | 900226000893369 | 961 | 1067 | 8391 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115743 | 900226000893450 | 1075 | 1183 | 10387 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115744 | 900226000893399 | 735 | 817 | 3000 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115745 | 900226000893442 | 837 | 951 | 5625 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115746 | 900226000893300 | 826 | 932 | 4125 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115747 | 900226000893407 | 911 | 1019 | 5579 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115748 | 900226000893328 | 805 | 905 | 4025 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115749 | 900226000893277 | 1218 | 1342 | 16375 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 115750 | 900226000893377 | 1146 | 1270 | 18733 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115751 | 900226000152965 | 986 | 1095 | 6895 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115752 | 900226000893747 | 1000 | 1113 | 5715 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115753 | 900226000893258 | 1153 | 1262 | 16511 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115754 | 900226000893465 | 911 | 1105 | 5126 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115755 | 900226000893325 | 847 | 948 | 5080 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115756 | 900226000893415 | 901 | 1010 | 5761 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115757 | 900226000152959 | 1002 | 1110 | 7212 | M | 9 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115758 | 900226000893353 | 942 | 1056 | 7620 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115759 | 900226000893379 | 1045 | 1130 | 9979 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115760 | 900226000893498 | 803 | 911 | 4853 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115761 | 900226000152962 | 870 | 988 | 6214 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115762 | 900226000152964 | 1026 | 1135 | 10115 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115763 | 900226000152966 | 905 | 1021 | 6895 | M | 7 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115764 | 900226000154004 | 927 | 1042 | 6214 | M | 7 |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115765 | 900226000893460 | 1042 | 1152 | 8301 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115766 | 900226000893417 | 946 | 1043 | 6622 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115767 | 900226000893253 | 791 | 889 | 3629 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115768 | 900226000893256 | 1099 | 1225 | 12338 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115769 | 900226000893270 | 923 | 1032 | 6260 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115770 | 900226000152937 | 771 | 865 | 4125 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115771 | 900226000768076 | 745 | 837 | 3425 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115772 | 900226000152971 | 745 | 846 | 3200 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115773 | 900226000152936 | 1099 | 1226 | 11612 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115774 | 900226000152989 | 1042 | 1155 | 9934 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115775 | 900226000152916 | 892 | 991 | 5625 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115776 | 900226000152922 | 1025 | 1140 | 8890 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 115777 | 900226000152946 | 946 | 1060 | 7121 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 02-Jun-18 | NSC | 115778 | 900226000152945 | 1010 | 1130 | 7938 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115780 | 900226000152926 | 840 | 940 | 4500 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115781 | 900226000152931 | 784 | 880 | 3650 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115782 | 900226000152972 | 881 | 1005 | 4525 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115783 | 900226000893931 | 841 | 963 | 4475 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115784 | 900226000152910 | 780 | 857 | 3350 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115785 | 900226000152909 | 1374 | 1580 | 23678 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115786 | 900226000152986 | 826 | 920 | 4354 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 115787 | 900226000152914 | 969 | 1092 | 7802 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115788 | 900226000152993 | 920 | 1040 | 6260 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115789 | 900226000154294 | 982 | 1092 | 6985 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115790 | 900226000152913 | 955 | 1061 | 6078 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 115791 | 900226000152949 | 976 | 1086 | 7620 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 05-Jun-18 | NSC | 115792 | 900226000152996 | 740 | 845 | 4650 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 06-Jun-18 | NSC | 115793 | 900226000152947 | 812 | 905 | 4600 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 06-Jun-18 | NSC | 115794 | 900226000152991 | 780 | 871 | 3675 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 06-Jun-18 | NSC | 115795 | 900226000152920 | 775 | 870 | 3650 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 115796 | 900226000152973 | 820 | 937 | 4450 | M | 7 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 115797 | 900226000152925 | 760 | 858 | 3400 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 115798 | 900226000152998 | 761 | 849 | 4050 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 115799 | 900226000152982 | 1390 | 1530 | 21183 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 115800 | 900226000152995 | 736 | 832 | 3800 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 115801 | 900226000152929 | 918 | 1026 | 7620 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 115802 | 900226000152980 | 940 | 1050 | 6532 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 115802 | 900226000152979 | 1084 | 1207 | 9480 | M | 9 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 115804 | 900226000152984 | 810 | 900 | 4275 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 115805 | 900226000152955 | 736 | 836 | 3400 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 115806 | 900226000152905 | 1000 | 1103 | 8754 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 115807 | 900226000893887 | 822 | 923 | 4875 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 115808 | 900226000152918 | 625 | 708 | 2175 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 115809 | 900226000152923 | 1005 | 1111 | 8981 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 115810 | 900226000152992 | 1071 | 1195 | 11839 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115811 | 900226000154095 | 748 | 851 | 3675 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115812 | 900226000152903 | 842 | 940 | 5225 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115813 | 900226000152942 | 772 | 869 | 3775 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115815 | 900226000152987 | 895 | 982 | 6169 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115816 | 900226000152985 | 873 | 920 | 6441 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
adult Lake Sturgeon Population

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | Pit Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115817 | 900226000152981 | 957 | 1103 | 8301 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115819 | 900226000152908 | 762 | 840 | 3800 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115820 | 900226000154066 | 810 | 900 | 4900 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115822 | 900226000893797 | 960 | 1075 | 7666 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115823 | 900226000768016 | 712 | 822 | 3225 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115824 | 900226000152935 | 714 | 816 | 3100 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115825 | 900226000152958 | 985 | 1076 | 7167 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115826 | 900226000154078 | 825 | 925 | 4275 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115827 | 900226000154088 | 1110 | 1225 | 10070 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115828 | 900226000768536 | 994 | 1084 | 8936 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115829 | 900226000152939 | 860 | 960 | 5200 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115830 | 900226000153854 | 745 | 832 | 3275 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115831 | 900226000768094 | 746 | 835 | 3375 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115832 | 900226000768535 | 820 | 916 | 4450 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115833 | 900226000153921 | 850 | 952 | 4725 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115834 | 900226000768599 | 947 | 1050 | 7620 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115835 | 900226000154089 | 980 | 1099 | 8981 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115836 | 900226000768964 | 819 | 931 | 3950 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115837 | 900226000153703 | 695 | 790 | 3900 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115838 | 900226000768985 | 746 | 834 | 3500 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115839 | 900226000768092 | 918 | 1034 | 6350 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115840 | 900226000768508 | 886 | 975 | 5350 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115841 | 900226000154056 | 971 | 1065 | 7900 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115842 | 900226000768058 | 1169 | 1305 | 15876 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115843 | 900226000768940 | 867 | 993 | 5050 | - | - |

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan
adult Lake Sturgeon Population

Table A1-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon marked with Floy ${ }^{\circledR}$ tags and PIT tags in the future Keeyask reservoir (the Nelson River between Clark Lake and Gull Rapids) and Stephens Lake, spring 2018 (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | Floy Tag | PIT Tag | Fork <br> Length <br> $\mathbf{( m m )}$ | Total <br> Length <br> $(\mathbf{m m})$ | Weight <br> $(\mathbf{g})$ | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

# APPENDIX 2: <br> TAGGING AND BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION FOR LAKE STURGEON RECAPTURED UPSTREAM OF GULL RAPIDS AND IN STEPHENS LAKE DURING SPRING, 2018. 

[^4]Table A2-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon recaptured in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake, spring 2018. Red highlighting indicates a mortality / local resource user harvest. Red font indicates that the tag number does not match any tagged Lake Sturgeon and may have been recorded incorrectly in the field. A Floy tag that was lost and fish was retagged in 2018 is indicated by an asterisk.

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | $\underset{1}{\text { Floy Tag }}$ | $\underset{2}{\text { Floy Tag }}$ | PIT Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight <br> (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 28-May-01 | NSC | 46827 | - | - | 945 | 1040 | 7500 | M | 7 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-May-01 | NSC | 46827 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 02-Jun-01 | NSC | 46827 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gull Lake | BR-D | 24-Jun-03 | NSC | 46827 | - | - | 964 | - | 8166 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 05-Jun-16 | NSC | 46827 | - | 900226000548789 | 1120 | 1100 | 9072 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 46827 | - | 900226000548789 | 1044 | 1133 | 9208 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 46827 | - | 900226000548789 | - | - | - | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 28-May-01 | NSC | 46844 | - | - | 926 | 1036 | 6750 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-10 | NSC | 46844 | - | - | 1060 | 1165 | 10433 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-14 | NSC | 46844 | - | - | 1095 | 2000 | 9525 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 46844 | - | 900226000152917 | 1116 | 1230 | 10977 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 46844 | - | 900226000152917 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 29-May-01 | NSC | 46847 | - | - | 1010 | 1109 | 9000 | M | 7 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-May-01 | NSC | 46847 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 30-Jun-01 | NSC | 46847 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-10 | NSC | 46847 | - | - | 1100 | 1214 | 8618 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 02-Jun-18 | NSC | 46847 | - | 900226000152967 | 1142 | 1257 | 11839 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 07-Jul-01 | NSC | 47181 | - | - | 739 | 855 | 4000 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 22-Jun-02 | NSC | 47181 | - | - | 770 | 885 | 4536 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 23-Jun-03 | NSC | 47181 | - | - | 810 | 926 | 4763 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 14-Jun-12 | NSC | 47181 | - | - | 980 | 1102 | 9072 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 28-May-18 | NSC | 47181 | - | 900226000767025 | 1036 | 1152 | 9163 | M | 7 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 22-Jun-18 | NSC | 47181 | - | 900226000767025 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 15-Jun-18 | NSC | 47181 | - | 900226000767025 | - | - | - | - | - |

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|  | Lake, spring 2018. Red highlighting indicates a mortality / local resource user harvest. Red font indicates that the tag number does not match any tagged Lake Sturgeon and may have been recorded incorrectly in the field. A Floy tag that was lost and fish was retagged in 2018 is indicated by an asterisk (continued). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | $\begin{gathered} \text { Floy Tag } \\ 1 \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{2}{\text { Floy Tag }}$ |  | PIT Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-06 | NSC | 80277 | 80278 |  | - | 812 | 914 | 3969 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 29-Jun-08 | NSC | 80277 | - |  | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 02-Jun-12 | NSC | 80277 | - |  | - | 882 | 972 | 4990 | M | 8 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 22-May-16 | NSC | 80277 | - |  | - | 919 | 1011 | 6123 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-C | 21-Jun-18 | NSC | 80277 | - |  | 226000628929 | 921 | 1033 | 5625 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-06 | NSC | 80285 | 80286 |  | - | 1030 | 1135 | 8400 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 23-Jun-16 | NSC | 80285 | 80286 |  |  | 1068 | 1184 | 11793 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 08-Jun-18 | NSC | 80285 | - |  | 226000153880 | 1087 | 1220 | 11748 | M | 8 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 02-Jun-06 | NSC | 80299 | 80300 |  | - | 1061 | 1150 | 8600 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 80299 | 80300 |  | 226000767098 | 1155 | 1253 | 14016 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 27-May-06 | NSC | 80405 | - |  | - | 1105 | 1195 | 11340 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-10 | NSC | 80405 | - |  | - | 1145 | 1244 | 13608 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 80405 | - |  | - | 1210 | 1308 | 15286 | M | 8 |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 04-Jun-06 | NSC | 80411 | 80412 |  | - | 1003 | 1099 | 7711 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 05-Jun-10 | NSC | 80411 | 80412 |  | - | 1110 | 1210 | 10886 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 80411 | 80412 |  | 226000893338 | 1315 | 1415 | 16964 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 15-Sep-08 | NSC | 81628 | - |  | - | 660 | 740 | 2550 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 09-Jun-10 | NSC | 81628 | - |  | - | 703 | 786 | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 13-Jun-12 | NSC | 81628 | - |  | - | 810 | 900 | 5443 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 81628 | - |  | 226000152938 | 977 | 1070 | 7802 | - | - |

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| Lake, <br> tag tag | , spring number that | 2018. Red does not ma was lost | highlighting atch any ta and fish | ng indicat agged Lak <br> was | tes a mort ke Sturgeo retagged | lity / local resou and may have in 2018 is | urce user h been recor indicated | rvest. Re ded incor by an | font ind ectly in th asterisk | cate <br> fie <br> (co | that the A Floy inued). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | $\begin{gathered} \text { Floy Tag } \\ 1 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Floy Tag } \\ 2 \end{gathered}$ | PIT Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 14-Jun-12 | NSC | 94599 | - | - | 645 | 711 | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 94599 | - | 900226000628373 | - 830 | 932 | 5000 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 21-Sep-12 | NSC | 94955 | - | - | 457 | 529 | 800 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 94955 | - | 900226000548813 | 742 | 858 | 3400 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 94955 | - | 900226000548813 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 22-Sep-12 | NSC | 94959 | - | - | 540 | 814 | 1225 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 30-May-18 | NSC | 94959 | - | 900226000893942 | - 741 | 833 | 3350 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 27-Jun-18 | NSC | 94959 | - | 900226000893942 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 96492 | - | 900226000767036 | 1100 | 1192 | 10523 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 16-Sep-15 | NSC | 96515 | - | - | 595 | 679 | 1320 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 23-Jun-18 | NSC | 96515 | - | 900226000120160 | - 648 | 739 | 2223 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 16-Sep-15 | NSC | 96522 | - | - | 615 | 668 | 1920 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 96522 | - | 900226000548526 | - 691 | 768 | 2585 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 16-Sep-15 | NSC | 97337 | - | - | 539 | 600 | 1360 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 29-Jun-18 | NSC | 97337 | - | 900226000703467 | - 629 | 695 | 1850 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 18-Sep-12 | NSC | 94968 | - | - | 487 | 564 | 900 |  |  |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 94968 | - | 900226000893323 | -745 | 855 | 3650 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 22-Sep-12 | NSC | 100138 | - | - | 760 | 865 | 4050 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 13-Jun-16 | NSC | 100138 | - | 900226000548979 | - 860 | 973 | 6804 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 100138 | - | 900226000548979 | 933 | 1010 | 6150 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 23-Jun-18 | NSC | 100138 | - | 900226000548979 | 9 | - | - | - | - |

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| Lake <br> tag <br> tag | , spring number that | 2018. Red does not mat was lost | highlighting atch any ta and fish | ng indicat agged Lak <br> was | tes a mort <br> ke Sturgeo <br> retagged | lity / local resour n and may have in 2018 is | rce user h been reco indicated | arvest. Re ded incor by an | d font ind rectly in th asterisk | cates he field (con | that the A Floy tinued). |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | $\begin{gathered} \text { Floy Tag } \\ 1 \end{gathered}$ | Floy Tag $2$ | PIT Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-16 | NSC | 110989 | - | 900226000548946 | 868 | 985 | 6350 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 29-May-18 | NSC | 110989 | - | 900226000548946 | 920 | 1044 | 6849 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 28-Jun-18 | NSC | 110989 | - | 900226000548946 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-16 | NSC | 110993 | - | 900226000548802 | 945 | 1060 | 7257 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 110993 | - | 900226000548802 | 778 | 1095 | 7200 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 12-Jun-16 | NSC | 110995 | - | 900226000548564 | 970 | 1068 | 7257 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 110995 | - | 900226000548564 | 1037 | 1134 | 8255 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 110995 | - | 900226000548564 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Sep-17 | NSC | 111051 | - | 900226000893939 | 780 | 885 | 3600 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 20-Jun-18 | NSC | 111051 | - | 900226000893939 | 778 | 891 | 3600 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 26-May-18 | NSC | 111752 | - | 900226000767045 | 940 | 1051 | 7847 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 14-Jun-18 | NSC | 111752 | - | 900226000767045 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 28-May-18 | NSC | 111754 | - | 900226000767027 | 901 | 1010 | 6985 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-B | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 111754 | - | 900226000767027 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 29-May-18 | NSC | 111756 | - | 900226000767004 | 904 | 1028 | 4717 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 31-May-18 | NSC | 111756 | - | 900226000767004 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 29-May-18 | NSC | 111758 | - | 900226000767044 | 1031 | 1152 | 11068 | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 111758 | - | 900226000767044 | - | - | - | M | 7 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 30-May-18 | NSC | 111764 | - | 900226000767094 | 950 | 1042 | 9435 | M | 7 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 111764 | - | 900226000767094 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 01-Jun-18 | NSC | 111771 | - | 900226000767066 | 860 | 961 | 6577 | M | 7 |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | BR-D | 07-Jun-18 | NSC | 111771 | - | 900226000767066 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nelson River (CL-GR) | GL-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 111771 | - | 900226000767066 | - | - | - | - | - |

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Table A2-23: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon recaptured in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake, spring 2018. Red highlighting indicates a mortality / local resource user harvest. Red font indicates that the tag number does not match any tagged Lake Sturgeon and may have been recorded incorrectly in the field. A Floy tag that was lost and fish was retagged in 2018 is indicated by an asterisk (continued).


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Table A2-25: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon recaptured in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake, spring 2018. Red highlighting indicates a mortality / local resource user harvest. Red font indicates that the tag number does not match any tagged Lake Sturgeon and may have been recorded incorrectly in the field. A Floy tag that was lost and fish was retagged in 2018 is indicated by an asterisk (continued).

| Location | Zone | Date | Prefix | $\begin{gathered} \text { Floy Tag } \\ 1 \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{2}{\text { Floy Tag }}$ | PIT Tag | Fork Length (mm) | Total Length (mm) | Weight (g) | Sex | Maturity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 09-Jun-18 | NSC | 115810 | - | 900226000152992 | 1071 | 1195 | 11839 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 12-Jun-18 | NSC | 115810 | - | 900226000152992 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 22-Jun-15 | - | - | - | 900067000055189 | 223 | 269 | 61 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115814 | - | 900067000055189 | 497 | 578 | 775 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-B | 22-Jun-15 | - | - | - | 900067000055257 | 248 | 280 | 83 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115818 | - | 900067000055257 | 473 | 542 | 550 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 13-Jun-16 | NSC | 110996 | - | 900226000548965 | 850 | 958 | 4536 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115821 | - | 900226000548965 | 914 | 1028 | 6700 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 10-Jun-18 | NSC | 115822 | - | 900226000893797 | 960 | 1075 | 7666 | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | GR-A | 11-Jun-18 | NSC | 115822 | - | 900226000893797 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | n/a | 11-Jun-11 | NSC | 74412 | - | - | 362 | 429 | - | - | - |
| Stephens Lake | STL-A | 04-Jun-18 | NSC | 74412 | - | 900226000152948 | 724 | 833 | 2700 | - | - |

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## APPENDIX 3: POPULATION ESTIMATE INFORMATION

Table A3-1: Results of POPAN analysis of adult Lake Sturgeon from the future Keeyask reservoir. Best model was constant survival and variable recapture. Confidence intervals are rounded.
Table A3-2: Results of POPAN analysis of adult Lake Sturgeon from Stephens Lake. Best model was variable survival and variable recapture. Confidence intervals are rounded99

Mark-recapture population estimates have been calculated for the future Keeyask reservoir during the spring of 12 different years (1995, 2001-2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018) and for Stephens Lake during the spring of 11 different years (2001-2006, 2008, 2010-2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018). Lake Sturgeon were tagged in 1995 in Gull Lake by Manitoba Fisheries Branch and the Split Lake Resource Management Board. All data for the period 2001-2012 were collected annually as part of environmental studies related to the preProject environment, while data from 2014 until 2044 will be collected biennially as part of monitoring studies related to the Keeyask Project.

Only Lake Sturgeon classified as adults (i.e., fork length equal to or greater than 800 mm ) were included in the population estimate. Floy tag returns from local fishers were also included in the dataset to provide information on harvested Lake Sturgeon and to ensure that individuals harvested were removed from the tagged population. Between 2001 and 2012, 29 tags from Lake Sturgeon harvested in the Clark Lake to Gull Rapids reach were returned to North/South Consultants (Nelson and Barth 2012). Between 2012 and 2018, there were no reported tag returns from this section of the Nelson River, although field crews have observed resource harvesters in this reach. In 2018, two tags were harvested in Stephens Lake in 2018 and returned to North/South Consultants.

Data were analysed using the program MARK (White and Burnham 1999), which is an industry standard for the analysis of data from marked populations. Program MARK uses binary numbers to represent the encounter history of individuals, and then uses the cumulative pattern of 0 's (not-encountered) and 1's (re-encountered live capture) to generate a probability distribution of tag recaptures which form the basis of population estimation. Re-encounters can also be from dead recoveries (e.g., the animal is harvested) in which case the model uses a value of -1 . For example, the history "10-1" indicates than an animal was captured for the first time at sampling occasion 1, not encountered at sampling occasion 2, and recovered dead at sampling occasion 3.

Several different population model variants exist, most of which can be classified as either closed or open models. Closed models assume there are no births, deaths, immigration, or emigration between sample periods, while open models assume these processes occur. Prior to 2014, a Robust Design (Kendall 2001) model was used to estimate the annual abundance of adult Lake Sturgeon (outlined in the AEMP). This model incorporates both open (i.e., between sampling years) and closed (i.e., pre- and post-spawning periods within a single year) population models. However, this model requires numerous assumptions, for example that the population is closed between the pre- and post- spawn sampling periods. Estimates may be confounded by variables such as spawning periodicity, inter-annual variation in environmental conditions and the timing of spawning (which was estimated based on water temperature), and harvest during the spawning period. Thus, after 2014, the Jolly-Seber model (POPAN formulation; Arnason and Schwarz 2002), as implemented within MARK, was used to estimate the annual abundance of adult Lake Sturgeon. This is an open model that requires fewer assumptions and modeled variables, and thus likely provides a more reliable estimate of abundance.

Using first-time capture and recapture information, POPAN estimates the survival (i.e., the probability that a fish will survive from one capture to the next), the probability of recapture ( p ; i.e., the probability that a fish will be recaptured given that the animal is alive and in the study area), and abundance ( N ; i.e., the number of adult Lake Sturgeon in the area during each capture period) (Tables A3-1 and A3-3).

The model recommends how best to split the data for survival estimates.

- Model fit for survival in the future Keeyask reservoir was best using three time periods of fish capture corresponding to i) 1995-2001 (93\% survival); ii) 2001-2004 (77\% survival); and iii) 2004-2018 (91\% survival). Survival rate within each time period was constant.
- In the current study, time periods were split, not into pre- and post-construction periods, but into groups based on tag type and sampling periodicity to best fit the model. In 1995, the Manitoba Fisheries Branch and the Split Lake Resource Management Board tagged Lake Sturgeon capture in Gull Lake with Carlin tags, as opposed to Floy tags used in future studies. These were the only fish tagged in the area until 2001. Between 2001 and 2004, fish were sampled annually, while biennial studies were conducted between 2004 and 2018.
- Model fit for survival in Stephens Lake was best using two time periods of fish capture: 2001-2014 (86\% survival) and 2014-2018 (94\% survival). Survival rate within each time period was constant.
- Between 2001 and 2014, fish were sampled opportunistically (e.g., for acoustic tagging), while 2014-2018 marked the beginning of biennial studies.
- As more data is added to each model, the best fit for survival may change, and additional time periods may be added (even if sampling methods remain consistent). For example, should survival be very different in one year, the model may recommend that the data be divided.

The probability of recapture varied among years and locations.

- Recapture rates were split into four groups based on the model for the future Keeyask reservoir: i) 1995 had null recapture rates; ii) 2001, 2002, 2004, 2014, and 2018 had low recapture rates (0.09); iii) 2003, 2006, and 2016 had moderate recapture rates (0.17); and iv) 2008, 2010, and 2012 had high recapture rates (0.25).
- For Stephens Lake, recapture rates were split into seven groups: i) 1995 (null); ii) 2002, 2005, 2008 (0.03); iii) 2004, 2012, and 2014 (0.07); iv) 2011 (0.14); v) 2006 and 2016 (0.21); vi) 2003 (0.34); and vii) 2018 (0.59).

An abundance estimate is provided for each year sampling was conducted for both the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake. As sampling continues (i.e., year to year) and data is added to the model, the parameters are recalculated. Thus, although survival rates and abundance estimates are calculated for the same time periods, they may differ among reporting periods. This allows the estimates to become more refined and precise over time.

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Table A3-1: Results of POPAN analysis of adult Lake Sturgeon from the future Keeyask reservoir. Best model was constant survival and variable recapture. Confidence intervals are rounded.

| Period | Mean | SE | 95\% Confidence Interval |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Low | High |
| Survival (1995-2001) | 0.93 | 0.03 | 0.84 | 0.97 |
| Survival (2002-2004) | 0.77 | 0.04 | 0.69 | 0.83 |
| Survival (2006-2018) | 0.91 | 0.01 | 0.89 | 0.93 |
| 1995 Recapture | 1.00 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| $2001,2002,2004,2014,2018$ Recapture | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.12 |
| $2003,2006,2016$ Recapture | 0.17 | 0.02 | 0.15 | 0.21 |
| $2008,2010,2012$ Recapture | 0.25 | 0.02 | 0.21 | 0.30 |
| 1995 | 62 | 14 | 40 | 97 |
| 2001 | 568 | 62 | 459 | 702 |
| 2002 | 436 | 50 | 348 | 545 |
| 2003 | 488 | 53 | 396 | 603 |
| 2004 | 401 | 47 | 320 | 503 |
| 2006 | 716 | 71 | 589 | 870 |
| 2008 | 653 | 89 | 501 | 852 |
| 2010 | 778 | 110 | 591 | 1025 |
| 2012 | 855 | 121 | 648 | 1128 |
| 2014 | 802 | 83 | 654 | 982 |
| 2016 | 745 | 69 | 621 | 892 |
| 2018 | 820 | 80 | 678 | 991 |

Table A3-2: Results of POPAN analysis of adult Lake Sturgeon from Stephens Lake. Best model was variable survival and variable recapture. Confidence intervals are rounded.

| Period | Mean | SE | 95\% Confidence Interval |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Low | High |
| Survival (2001-2014) | 0.86 | 0.03 | 0.80 | 0.90 |
| Survival (2015-2018) | 0.94 | 0.04 | 0.80 | 0.98 |
| 2001 Recapture | 1.00 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| 2002, 2005, 2008 Recapture | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.06 |
| $2004,2012,2014$ Recapture | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.13 |
| 2011 Recapture | 0.14 | 0.04 | 0.07 | 0.24 |
| 2006,2016 Recapture | 0.21 | 0.02 | 0.16 | 0.26 |
| 2003 Recapture | 0.34 | 0.08 | 0.20 | 0.51 |
| 2018 Recapture | 0.59 | 0.09 | 0.40 | 0.75 |
| 2001 | 24 | 5 | 16 | 37 |
| 2002 | 113 | 25 | 74 | 172 |
| 2003 | 97 | 21 | 63 | 148 |
| 2004 | 83 | 19 | 54 | 128 |
| 2005 | 191 | 31 | 138 | 263 |
| 2006 | 163 | 28 | 117 | 227 |
| 2008 | 120 | 23 | 82 | 173 |
| 2010 | 112 | 20 | 78 | 159 |
| 2011 | 96 | 19 | 65 | 140 |
| 2012 | 244 | 71 | 140 | 426 |
| 2014 | 216 | 62 | 125 | 374 |
| 2016 | 334 | 32 | 277 | 404 |
| 2018 | 296 | 46 | 218 | 401 |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Although a population estimate could not be generated until 2018 based on recaptures, the model provides estimates of population size for each year that fish were previously marked and recaptured.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ See the Fisheries Offsetting and Mitigation Plan for more information on the selection of stocking locations and the stocking plan.

[^2]:    ${ }^{1}$ A two panel gang consisting of 9 and 12 " mesh was set at Site GN-05 downstream of the Birthday Rapids due to space constraints.

[^3]:    ${ }^{1}$ The statistical analysis was run on the pooled sample for the $1,250-1,299,1,300-1,349,1,350-1,399$, and $1,400-1,449 \mathrm{~mm}$ size classes due to the small number of fish in each interval.

[^4]:    Table A2-1: Tagging and biological information for Lake Sturgeon recaptured in the future Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake, spring 2018.69

