

A large, light gray silhouette of a sturgeon is centered on the page. Behind the sturgeon is a faint, light gray outline of a globe with latitude and longitude lines. The text 'What Sturgeon Eat' is overlaid on the sturgeon's body in a bold, dark blue font.

What Sturgeon Eat

At Vancouver Island University



VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

Types of Food

- Fish Fudge
- Commercial pellets
- Stuffed Squid
- And Trout



Fish Fudge

- Fish fudge is a mixture of commercial salmon feed in mash form, gelatin and water
- This mixture was created to enable us to deliver a balanced diet in a variety of palatable forms
- Fish fudge is used primarily for feeding larval and small sturgeon

Stuffed Squid

- Many of the larger sturgeon at VIU are originally from the wild and prefer to feed on natural foods such as live fish, lampreys, salmon eggs, and rotting salmon carcasses.
- These fish have no interest in commercial food
 - To provide the nutrition needed that is available in commercial feed, we insert the feed into squid in a paste form



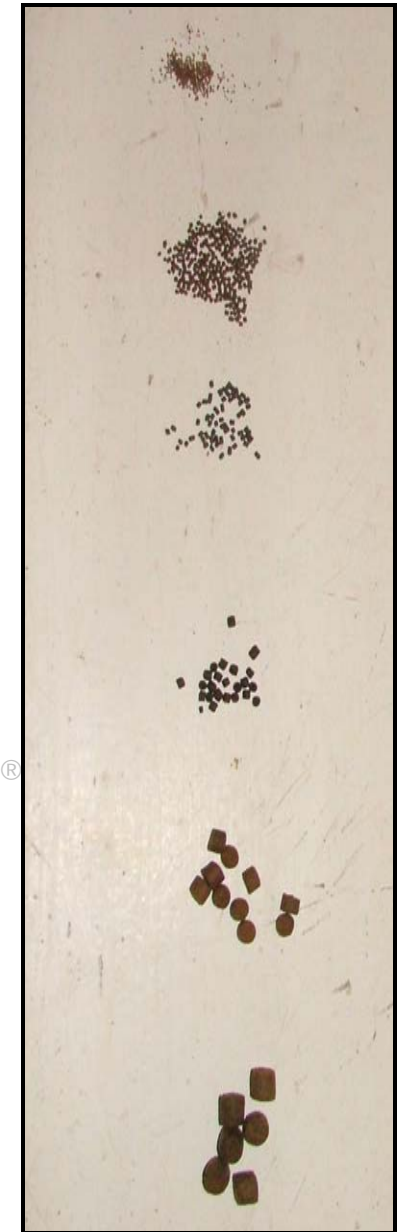
Stuffing Squid

- We use a simple hand sausage stuffer with a small filling horn
- The filling horn is inserted under the mantle of the squid
- The paste is then squeezed into the squid until its cavity is filled
- Once the paste is stuffed into the squid, they are frozen and are later cut into bite sized morsels for the sturgeon as needed



Commercial Pellets

- All the young sturgeon in our tanks are fed manufactured commercial food
- Readily available salmon food is nutritionally balanced and much less labour intensive than fudge and squid
- These pellets come in bags and can be quickly measured out and fed
- They come in many sizes ranging from mash (for tiny baby sturgeon) to 9mm pellets that the larger older sturgeon vacuum up



Trout

- Rainbow trout are also raised at VIU and excess fish are used to feed the broodstock
- The fish are culled, frozen and cut into small pieces as needed



How do sturgeon feed?

- Sturgeon do not have teeth. Instead they have an extendable mouth which acts as a vacuum and their food is swallowed whole.
- They extend their mouth, flare their gills which creates negative pressure and the food is instantly sucked up
- Sometimes the sturgeon will “taste” an item several times sucking it in and out of its mouth
- Check out these videos of our Sturgeon feeding:

– Juvenile fish



– Brood fish

