



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

*Species at Risk Act*

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The purpose of this report is to summarize activities that were carried out in 2017 related to the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). It fulfills the Minister of the Environment's obligation, to prepare an annual report on the administration of SARA each year. The Act states that the report include a summary of:

- (a) any assessments done by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and the Minister's response to each of them;
- (b) the preparation and implementing of recovery strategies, as well as action plans and management plans;
- (c) all agreements made under sections 10 to 13;
- (d) all agreements entered into and permits issued under section 73, and
- (e) all agreements and permits amended under section 75 or exempted under section 76;
- (f) enforcement and compliance actions taken, including the response to any requests for investigation;
- (g) regulations and emergency orders made under SARA; and
- (h) any other matters that the Minister considers relevant.

## 1.2. BACKGROUND ON SARA

SARA is the main legislation relied on by Environment and Climate Change Canada for conserving and protecting Canada's biological diversity, and helps the Government of Canada meet its international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. It also supports the federal commitments under the 1996 Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk to prevent species in Canada from becoming extinct from human activity.

The purpose of the Act:

- To prevent wildlife species from being extirpated or becoming extinct;
- To provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity; and
- To manage species of special concern to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened.

The Act establishes a process for conducting scientific assessments of the status of individual wildlife species and a mechanism for listing extirpated, endangered, threatened and special-concern species. SARA includes requirements for the protection, recovery and management of listed wildlife species, and their critical habitats<sup>1</sup> and residences.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Under SARA, "critical habitat" is defined as the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species and that is identified as the species' critical habitat in the recovery strategy or in an action plan for the species (see section 4.2).

<sup>2</sup> "Residence" means a dwelling-place, such as a den, nest or other similar area or place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more individuals during all or part of their life cycles, including breeding, rearing, staging, wintering, feeding or hibernating.

The responsibility for conservation of species at risk is shared by all jurisdictions in Canada. The Act recognizes this joint responsibility and that all Canadians have a role to play in the protection of wildlife.

### 1.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF SARA

It is the responsibility of the Minister of the Environment to oversee the overall administration of SARA, except insofar as the Act gives responsibility to another minister (i.e., the other competent minister). The Minister of the Environment is required to seek consultation from the other competent ministers.

The Parks Canada Agency (PCA), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), often referred to as the “competent” departments, share responsibility for the implementation of SARA. The ministers responsible for these organizations are known as the “competent” ministers under SARA. The Minister of the Environment is the minister responsible for both ECCC and PCA.

Ministerial responsibilities are as follows:

- The Minister of Parks Canada is responsible for individuals of species found in or on federal lands and waters that the Agency administers.
- The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for aquatic species at risk other than individuals in or on federal lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency.
- The Minister of the Environment is responsible for all other species at risk.

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## Success Story: BioBlitz & BioBox

In promoting species at risk protection, the Parks Canada Agency (PCA) concluded their 2017 BioBlitz initiative in the context of Canada 150. Parks Canada BioBlitz events contribute to the protection of Parks Canada's heritage places, though scientific biodiversity discovery and meaningful experiences for Canadians to connect to our special places and wildlife.

In order to connect with urban audiences on species at risk, Parks Canada led BioBlitz events, and created nine BioBox outreach kits. The BioBox kits contain fun and easy hands-on activities to inspire discovery, introduce audiences to the idea of biodiversity, and connect people with nature. The BioBox was a key offer to the Learn to Camp Hubs across the country that reached over 70,000 people during the summer of 2017.

During the 2017 Canada 150 celebrations, 29 PCA sites held 32 BioBlitz events. The events had over 5,500 participants and over 320 volunteers, and more than 500 species were counted. Half of the BioBlitz events included a species at risk component.

In addition to identifying 42 species at risk, other highlights included identifying habitat for Monarch butterflies and caterpillars, featuring species at risk experts as keynote speakers, and leading interactive games related to species at risk for youth and families. Half of the events engaged Indigenous communities or profiled Indigenous knowledge. For example, Tuktut Nogait National Park held a *Cultural Camp* which allowed youth and Elders to connect on the land together. Other events identified and catalogued culturally important species.



The BioBox was also showcased at key 2017 events including the Toronto Zoo (18,262 people reached), Canadian National Exhibition (3,033 people reached), Inspiration Village as one of the featured installations in the Parks Canada exhibit (1,435 people reached), and World Environment Day in Ontario with Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister McKenna in attendance.

BioBlitz events and other citizen science events provide meaningful data for the PCA to incorporate into decision making processes, and provide opportunities for the public to become actively involved. Through events like these, meaningful connections with nature and other members of the community are created.

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## 2. Assessment of species at risk

SARA defines a process for conducting assessments of the status of individual wildlife species. The Act separates the assessment process from the listing decision, ensuring that scientists provide independent assessments and that decisions affecting Canadians are made by elected officials who are accountable for those decisions.

### 2.1. COSEWIC ASSESSMENTS

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is made up of wildlife experts from government, academia, Indigenous organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It assesses the status of wildlife species in Canada that it considers to be at risk and identifies existing and potential threats to the species.

The federal government provides financial support to COSEWIC. ECCC provides COSEWIC with professional, technical, secretarial, clerical and other assistance via the COSEWIC Secretariat, which is housed within ECCC.

COSEWIC assesses the status of a wildlife species using the best available information on the biological status of a species, including scientific knowledge, community knowledge and Indigenous traditional knowledge. COSEWIC prioritizes species for assessment, by using the general status ranks that are outlined in the report called *Wild Species – The General Status of Species in Canada*, which is published every five years by ECCC and the National General Status Working Group. COSEWIC provides assessments and supporting evidence annually to the Minister of the Environment.

## COSEWIC ASSESSES WILDLIFE SPECIES INTO SIX CATEGORIES:

1. Extinct: wildlife species no longer exists anywhere in the world.
2. Extirpated: wildlife species no longer exists in the wild in Canada but exists elsewhere in the world.
3. Endangered: wildlife species faces imminent extirpation or extinction.
4. Threatened: wildlife species is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.
5. Special concern: wildlife species may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.
6. Not at risk: the wildlife species has no immediate risk or COSEWIC may not have sufficient information to classify the species.

Further details on risk categories and more information on COSEWIC can be found at: [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/committee-status-endangered-wildlife.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/committee-status-endangered-wildlife.html)

ECCC, PCA, and DFO give input towards the assessment process. Input is provided by staff experts who are members of COSEWIC, as well as through the population surveys that they conduct on some species of interest to COSEWIC. They are also regularly involved in the peer review of COSEWIC status reports.

In 2017, ECCC continued to contribute data that is used to assess species at risk, and guide recovery efforts. For example:

- In the Yukon, ECCC biologists established annual roadside surveys of bumble bees to monitor populations of Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee, Western Bumble Bee, and Yellow-banded Bumble Bee.
- In British Columbia, occupancy surveys for the vascular plant Grand Coulee Owl-clover have increased what is known about this species' distribution and population size, as well as the threats that it faces.
- In southern Ontario, biologists carried out surveys for grassland and open-habitat birds to provide better information on their distribution, trends, breeding phenologies and habitat associations. Roadside point counts were conducted and acoustic recorders were used to improve survey coverage for several species, including Grasshopper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark.

Also in 2017, PCA continued to keep track of the distribution of the species found within the lands and waters it administers. The information contributes to the Wild Species reports, COSEWIC status reports and the development of PCA site-based action plans. PCA also reviewed 78 COSEWIC status reports for both terrestrial and aquatic species that are found in the lands and waters it administers.

DFO submits peer-reviewed data to COSEWIC to support assessments of aquatic species. The peer-review involves government scientists, experts from academia, and other stakeholders. In 2017, DFO hosted a peer-review meeting regarding Lake Utopia Rainbow Smelt, Canary Rockfish and Rougheye Rockfish and provided reports on other aquatic species to COSEWIC. The Department also reviewed 37 COSEWIC status reports for aquatic wildlife species before they were finalized.

### **2.1.1. COSEWIC subcommittees**

COSEWIC's Species Specialists Subcommittees (SSCs) provide species expertise to COSEWIC. Each SSC is led by two co-chairs, and members are recognized Canadian experts in the taxonomic group in question with a demonstrated knowledge of wildlife conservation. Members are drawn from universities, provincial wildlife agencies, museums, Conservation Data Centres, and other sources of expertise on Canadian species. SSC members support the co-chairs in developing candidate lists of species to be considered for assessment, commissioning status reports for priority species, reviewing reports for scientific accuracy and completeness, and proposing to COSEWIC a status for each species. Currently, COSEWIC has 10 SSCs: Amphibians and Reptiles, Arthropods, Birds, Freshwater Fishes, Marine Fishes, Marine Mammals, Molluscs, Mosses and Lichens, Terrestrial Mammals and Vascular Plants.

COSEWIC also established an Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee. In 2017 this committee continued its efforts to produce:

- ATK Source Reports (which compile potential sources of ATK);
- ATK Assessment Reports (which summarize the relevant content of documented ATK sources); and
- ATK Gathering Reports (which compile non-publicly available documented and non-documented ATK that is shared directly from Indigenous communities).

There were a number of ATK reports completed in 2017 for wildlife species such as Bowhead Whale, Killer Whale, Abalone and Goose-neck Barnacle, Short-eared Owl, Greater Sage-Grouse, and Western Chorus Frog. The subcommittee produced ATK reports on bees & berries and a Lake Sturgeon gap analysis report. It also compiled a list of potential ecosystem-based ATK projects to be considered for future work. Ongoing work includes the prioritization and selection of wildlife species for which ATK reports will be completed as well as the review of COSEWIC status reports to ensure that available ATK is appropriately and accurately integrated.

## **2.2. WILDLIFE SPECIES ASSESSMENTS**

From 2002 to 2016, COSEWIC assessed and classified more than 900 wildlife species in 14 batches. Batch 15, consisting of 73 wildlife species was completed from November 2016 to April 2017. COSEWIC forwarded these assessments to the Minister of the Environment in October 2017, which included:

- Six (6) wildlife species examined and found to be data deficient.
- Eleven (11) wildlife species assessed as not at risk (includes one species previously assessed as Endangered, listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, and another species previously assessed as Special Concern, listed on Schedule 3 of SARA).
- One (1) wildlife species was assessed as extinct (formerly known under another name and previously assessed as Extirpated, listed on Schedule 1 of SARA).
- Fifty-five (55) wildlife species were assessed as at risk, of which 21 were confirmed at the classification already attributed to them on Schedule 1 of SARA.

## 3. Listing of species at risk

### 3.1. LISTING PROCESS

The listing process refers to the addition to or the removal of a species from the List of Wildlife Species at Risk, Schedule 1 of the Act. Species are listed as extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern.

Once the Minister of the Environment receives the COSEWIC assessment, she has 90 days to post a response statement on the Species at Risk Public Registry indicating how she intends on responding to each assessment and, if possible, providing timelines for action.

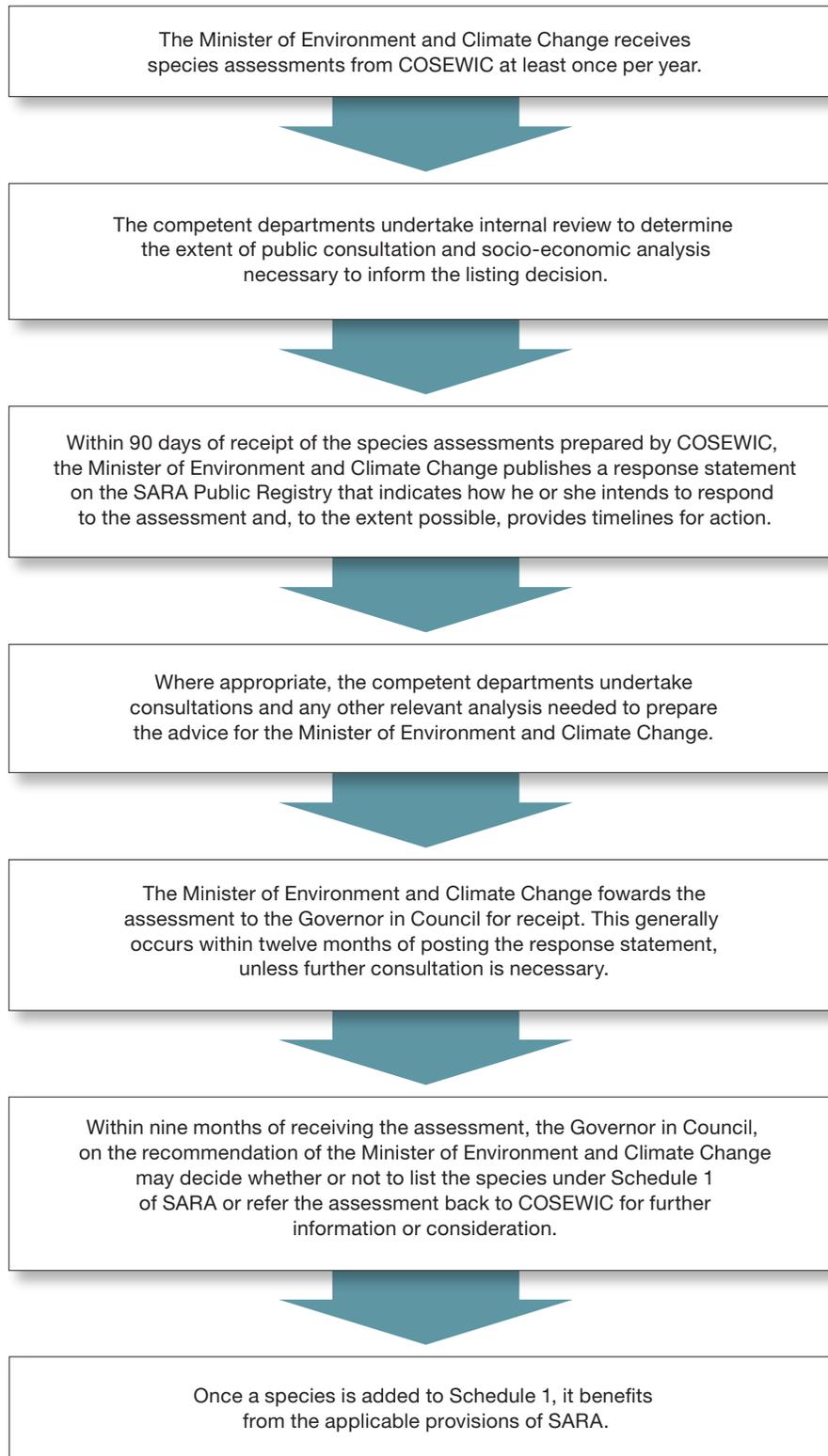
During this 90-day period, the relevant competent minister carries out an internal review to determine the level of public consultation and socio-economic analysis necessary to inform the listing decision. Timelines for action and the scope of consultations included in the response statement are based on the results of this initial review.

The Act establishes Schedule 1 as the official list of wildlife species at risk, which triggers the provisions under the Act. All of the species that COSEWIC assessed as being at risk prior to October 1999, were included at proclamation on SARA's Schedule 2 (endangered and threatened) and Schedule 3 (special concern). These species are being reassessed by COSEWIC using current criteria as part of the process to determine if they should be added to Schedule 1. All Schedule 2 species have since been reassessed by COSEWIC. For Schedule 3, five species remained to be reassessed at the end of 2017.

Prior to undertaking public consultations and socio-economic analyses DFO develops science advice in the form of a Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA) for aquatic species that have been assessed by COSEWIC as threatened, endangered or extirpated. The scientific information in an RPA includes, as an example, species status, threats and limiting factors to the survival and recovery of the species, recovery targets, and feasibility of recovery in given scenarios. The RPA informs the development of advice to the Minister of DFO regarding the listing of aquatic species under SARA and is used when analyzing the socio-economic impacts and during subsequent consultations. The RPA also provides advice needed to meet other requirements of the Act, including recovery planning and permitting decisions. In 2017, DFO held three Recovery Potential Assessments peer review meetings for: Little Quarry Lake Benthic and Limnetic Stickleback, Short Face Lanx, and Sakinaw Sockeye. In 2017, the department also published three documents associated with Recovery Potential Assessments.

Figure 1 outlines the species listing process under SARA. Table 2 (see section 3.4) provides the status of the listing process for each batch of assessed species.

**Figure 1: The species listing process under SARA**



For more information, go to the SAR Public Registry at [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html).

### 3.2. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COSEWIC ASSESSMENTS

In October 2017, the Minister of the Environment received the assessments for 73 species in Batch 15 from COSEWIC. Of these assessments, 33 terrestrial and 23 aquatic wildlife were species at risk, which the Minister provided response statements in January 2018. The response statements (full list included in Table 2) indicate the type of consultation that will be undertaken.

- For 17 terrestrial and 11 aquatic wildlife species, normal consultations (i.e., consistent with the path that is typical for most species; see Figure 1) would be undertaken.
- For four terrestrial and seven aquatic wildlife species, extended consultations will be undertaken, because in some cases, listing these species could have marked impacts on the activities of Indigenous peoples, hunters and trappers, ranchers, commercial and recreational fishers, or Canadians at large.
- For 12 terrestrial and five aquatic wildlife species already listed on Schedule 1, COSEWIC's assessments confirmed the current status, and no changes to Schedule 1 are required.

Eight of the terrestrial species and six of the aquatic species are already listed on Schedule 1 and are eligible to have their status changed: five to a higher risk category (uplist) and 9 to a lower risk category (downlist). One of the down-listed species, the Sonora Skipper, is being considered for removal from the list, as it was found to be not at risk in its latest assessment.

Species are grouped by the type of consultation that the departments will undertake.

**Table 1: List of species for which assessments and risk status were received from COSEWIC in October 2017**

COSEWIC risk status	Taxon	English legal name	Scientific name
<b>Normal consultation</b>			
Endangered	Lichens	Golden-eye Lichen (Great Lakes population)	<i>Teloschistes chrysophthalmus</i>
Endangered	Molluscs	Eastern Banded Tigersnail	<i>Anguispira kochi kochi</i>
Threatened	Birds	Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>
Threatened	Fishes (freshwater)	Pygmy Whitefish (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations)	<i>Prosopium coulterii</i>
Special Concern	Arthropods	Magdalen Islands Grasshopper	<i>Melanoplus madeleineae</i>
Special Concern	Arthropods	Transverse Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella transversoguttata</i>
Special Concern	Birds	Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>
Special Concern	Birds	Harris's Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>
Special Concern	Lichens	Golden-eye Lichen (Prairie / Boreal population)	<i>Teloschistes chrysophthalmus</i>
Special Concern	Reptiles	Bullsnake	<i>Pituophis catenifer sayi</i>
Special Concern	Vascular Plants	Long's Bulrush	<i>Scirpus longii</i>
Special Concern	Fishes (freshwater)	Deepwater Sculpin (Waterton Lake population) <sup>1</sup>	<i>Myoxocephalus thompsonii</i>
Special Concern	Fishes (freshwater)	Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay - James Bay populations)	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>
Special Concern	Fishes (freshwater)	Pygmy Whitefish (Waterton Lake population) <sup>1</sup>	<i>Prosopium coulterii</i>

COSEWIC risk status	Taxon	English legal name	Scientific name
↑ From Threatened to Endangered	Birds	Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>
↑ From Threatened to Endangered	Reptiles	Blanding's Turtle (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>
↑ From Threatened to Endangered	Fishes (freshwater)	Channel Darter (Lake Erie populations) <sup>2</sup>	<i>Percina copelandi</i>
↑ From Threatened to Endangered	Fishes (freshwater)	Channel Darter (Lake Ontario populations) <sup>2</sup>	<i>Percina copelandi</i>
↓ From Endangered to Threatened	Reptiles	Western Painted Turtle (Pacific Coast population)	<i>Chrysemys picta bellii</i>
↓ From Endangered to Threatened	Vascular Plants	Spotted Wintergreen	<i>Chimaphila maculata</i>
↓ From Threatened to Special Concern	Vascular Plants	Anticosti Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum anticostense</i>
↓ From Endangered to Special Concern	Mosses	Rusty Cord-moss	<i>Entosthodon rubiginosus</i>
↓ From Special Concern to Not at Risk	Arthropods	Sonora Skipper	<i>Polites sonora</i>
↓ From Endangered to Special Concern	Molluscs	Eastern Pondmussel	<i>Ligumia nasuta</i>
↓ From Threatened to Special Concern	Molluscs	Mapleleaf (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence population)	<i>Quadrula quadrula</i>
↓ From Threatened to Special Concern	Fishes (freshwater)	Channel Darter (St. Lawrence populations) <sup>2</sup>	<i>Percina copelandi</i>
<b>Extended consultation</b>			
Endangered	Mammals	Caribou (Eastern Migratory population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
Endangered	Mammals	Caribou (Torngat Mountains population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
Endangered	Fishes (freshwater)	Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan - Nelson River populations)	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>
Endangered	Fishes (freshwater)	Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations)	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>
Endangered	Fishes (marine)	Chinook Salmon (Okanagan population)	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>
Threatened	Fishes (freshwater)	Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations)	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>
Threatened	Fishes (marine)	Coho Salmon (Interior Fraser population)	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>
Threatened	Mammals	Caribou (Barren-ground population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
Special Concern	Mammals (marine)	Atlantic Walrus (Central / Low Arctic population)	<i>Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus</i>
Special Concern	Mammals (marine)	Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic population)	<i>Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus</i>
↑ From Special Concern to Endangered	Arthropods	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>

COSEWIC risk status	Taxon	English legal name	Scientific name
<b>Status confirmed – no consultation</b>			
Endangered	Arthropods	Gold-edged Gem	<i>Schinia avemensis</i>
Endangered	Birds	Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Endangered	Birds	Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Endangered	Mammals	Ord's Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>
Endangered	Mosses	Nugget Moss	<i>Microbryum vlassovii</i>
Endangered	Reptiles	Blanding's Turtle (Nova Scotia population)	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>
Endangered	Vascular Plants	Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>
Endangered	Vascular Plants	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>
Endangered	Fishes (freshwater)	Shortnose Cisco	<i>Coregonus reighardi</i>
Endangered	Fishes (freshwater)	Speckled Dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>
Threatened	Fishes (freshwater)	Westslope Cutthroat Trout (Saskatchewan - Nelson Rivers populations)	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi</i>
Special concern	Fishes (freshwater)	Deepwater Sculpin (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations)	<i>Myoxocephalus thompsonii</i>
Special concern	Fishes (freshwater)	Westslope Cutthroat Trout (Pacific populations)	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi</i>
Special Concern	Birds	Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>
Special Concern	Mammals	Nuttall's Cottontail nuttallii subspecies	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii nuttallii</i>
Special Concern	Reptiles	Western Painted Turtle (Intermountain - Rocky Mountain population)	<i>Chrysemys picta bellii</i>
Special Concern	Vascular Plants	American Hart's-tongue Fern	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i> var. <i>Americanum</i>
<b>No regulatory impact – no consultations (DFO)</b>			
↓ From Endangered to Threatened	Molluscs	Mapleleaf (Saskatchewan – Nelson Rivers population)	<i>Quadrula quadrula</i>
<b>Referred back to COSEWIC – no consultations</b>			
Special Concern	Fishes (marine)	Shortfin Mako (Atlantic population)	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>

<sup>1</sup> Parks Canada Agency is competent minister but Department of Fisheries and Oceans will do the consultations.

<sup>2</sup> Currently listed on Schedule 1 of SARA as Channel Darter.

### 3.3. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Public consultations provide the Minister with a better understanding of the potential social and economic impacts of possible changes to Schedule 1, and of the potential consequences of adding or not adding a species to the list. Information collected during consultations is used to inform the Minister's recommendations to the Governor in Council on amending Schedule 1 of SARA.

In 2017, ECCC carried out consultations for 24 terrestrial species for which status assessments had been received from COSEWIC as part of Batch 13. The document titled "Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the *Species at Risk Act*: Terrestrial Species – January 2017" was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html).

In 2017, DFO consulted Canadians on the possible listing on Schedule 1 of seven aquatic species. DFO sent consultation documents directly to other government departments, Wildlife Management Boards, stakeholders, Indigenous groups and non-governmental organizations for their input, and held meetings with potentially affected groups and organizations. Public consultations were also facilitated by inviting respondents to contribute to a web-based, species-specific survey hosted on the Species at Risk Public Registry.

### 3.4. LISTING DECISIONS

Governor in Council decisions on whether or not to amend Schedule 1 according to the COSEWIC assessments are published as orders amending Schedule 1 of SARA in the *Canada Gazette*, and include Regulatory Impact Analysis Statements. Decisions to not add a species at risk to Schedule 1 of SARA or to refer the matter back to COSEWIC are published in the *Canada Gazette* with an explanatory note.

In 2017, final listing decisions were made for 44 terrestrial species and 15 aquatic species. There were five orders amending Schedule 1 of SARA published in 2017. Of the 59 terrestrial and aquatic species included in these orders: 35 species were newly added to Schedule 1; 16 were reclassifications; two species were removed; one was referred back to COSEWIC for reassessment; 3 were the subject of changes to their recognized designatable units; and two were the subject of 'do no list' decisions.

Additionally, two proposed orders on whether or not to amend Schedule 1 of SARA according to the COSEWIC assessments for 45 species on Schedule 1 were published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I for a 30-day public comment period. The comments received will inform final listing decisions for these species. In June 2017, 32 terrestrial species were proposed for addition or reclassification to Schedule 1 of SARA. In November 2017, an additional 13 terrestrial species were proposed for addition or reclassification to Schedule 1 of SARA. Final decisions for these 45 species are expected in 2018.

**Table 2: Listing processes for species at risk at year-end 2017 (Batches 1 to 15)**

Batch and year of Minister's receipt	Total number of species assessed <sup>a</sup>	Assessed as at risk	Confirmation of current status	Added to Schedule 1 <sup>b</sup>	Uplisted (to a higher risk category) <sup>c</sup>	Downlisted (to a lower risk category) <sup>c</sup>	Not listed	Referred back	Listing decision pending
(Proclamation)	–	233	–	233	–	–	–	–	–
Batch 1 (2004)	115	95	4	75	0	0	8 <sup>d</sup>	8 <sup>d</sup>	0
Batch 2 (2004)	59	51 (+9 <sup>e</sup> )	0	46	0	0	13	1	0
Batch 3 (2005)	73	59	4	44	0	0	6	1	4
Batch 4 (2006)	68 (+5 <sup>f</sup> )	59	4	40	2	0	4	2	7
Emergency Assessment (2006)	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Batch 5 (2007)	64	53	8	29	2	4	0	0	10
Batch 6 (2008)	46	39	14	18	3	0	1	0	3
Batch 7 (2009)	48	46	17	19	3	1	0	0	6
Batch 8 (2010)	79	78	34	15	3	5	3	0	18
Batch 9 (2011)	92	81	31	11	4	5	0	3	27
Batch 10 (2012)	64	57	28	8	3	6	0	0	12
Emergency Assessment (2012)	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Batch 11 (2013)	73	67	32	3	0	0	0	0	32
Batch 12 (2014)	56	56	23	2	0	0	0	0	31
Batch 13 (2015)	56	54	24	0	0	0	0	0	30
Batch 14 (2016)	45	38	8	0	0	0	0	0	30
Batch 15 (2017)	73	56	18	0	0	0	0	1	38

<sup>a</sup> The total includes species assessed for the first time, species being reassessed and previously assessed species that have been split into more than one designatable unit.

<sup>b</sup> The total listed as "Added to Schedule 1" may not add up to the number of species included on Schedule 1 (555) because it does not account for species that were subsequently split into more than one designatable unit with no corresponding change in status and were therefore treated as status confirmations or were subsequently removed from the list.

<sup>c</sup> The totals listed as "Uplisted (to a higher risk category)" and "Downlisted (to a lower risk category)" also account for species that were subsequently split into more than one designatable unit with a corresponding change in status and were therefore treated as reclassifications ("uplisted" or "downlisted"). In addition, removals from Schedule 1 are counted here as "downlisted".

<sup>d</sup> One species was referred back and subsequently not listed. It is counted under "not listed."

<sup>e</sup> Includes four wildlife species that were not listed for further consideration from Batch 1 and reconsidered in Batch 2, and five additional wildlife species when one designatable unit received by COSEWIC was split into six for listing.

<sup>f</sup> Includes five wildlife species in Batch 1 that were referred to COSEWIC and resubmitted by COSEWIC with the original assessments.

### 3.5. SARA SCHEDULE 1 CURRENT STATUS

When SARA was proclaimed in June 2003, Schedule 1 included 233 species. Starting in 2005, species have been added to the list every year, except in 2008, 2015 and 2016. As of December 31, 2017, Schedule 1 listed 24 extirpated species, 253 endangered species, 131 threatened species and 147 species of special concern, for a total of 555 species.

**Table 3: Numbers of species added to Schedule 1 each year by risk status (as of December 2017)**

Year	Risk status				Total
	Extirpated	Endangered	Threatened	Special Concern	
June 2003 (proclamation)	17	107	67	42	233
2005	4	47	30	31	112
2006	0	18	14	12	44
2007	0	20	5	11	36
2008	0	0	0	0	0
2009	0	8	3	11	22
2010	0	11 <sup>a</sup>	8	4	23 <sup>a</sup>
2011	2	7	4	10	23
2012	0	11	2	5	18
2013	0	4	2	1	7
2014	0	3	0	0	3
2015	0	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0	0
2017	1	18	15	20	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>555<sup>b</sup></b>

<sup>a</sup> The Eastern Foxsnake was split into two populations. The new populations inherited the species' status on Schedule 1 of SARA before it was split, and both new populations were uplisted in 2010. For the purpose of this table, one of the new Eastern Foxsnake populations was treated as an addition to Schedule 1.

<sup>b</sup> Although the total number of listed species (555) is correct, the total listed as endangered, threatened and special concern is slightly different because the values presented in this table do not reflect status changes (i.e., uplisting or downlisting of a species).

**Table 4: Number of species listed on Schedule 1 by department/agency responsible for recovery planning (as of December 2017)**

	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Parks Canada Agency	Total
Terrestrial mammals	31	–	4	35
Aquatic mammals	–	24	0	24
Birds	81	–	3	84
Reptiles	37	3	5	45
Amphibians	20	–	1	21
Fishes	–	73	–	73
Molluscs	5	20	2	27
Arthropods	44	–	4	48
Plants	154	–	52	206
Lichens	13	–	1	14
Mosses	14	–	4	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>595</b>

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## Success Story: Restoring ecosystems and species in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

Sidney Island in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve protects rare coastal sand ecosystems, where marine and land environments meet. These habitats are typically kept open and ever-changing because of frequent disturbance from wind and waves. In recent years, non-native invasive plants such as Scotch broom and European beach grass have been moving in and stabilizing the shifting sands. This change is threatening the ecosystem and the survival of several rare species which depend on an open sand habitat, including the common nighthawk, the silky beach pea, and the contorted-pod evening-primrose.

To protect species at risk in the coastal sand ecosystem, Parks Canada is taking practical measures to save this ecosystem and these species. Their approach includes:

- Removing priority invasive plant species, including Scotch broom and European beach grass, from the rare coastal sand ecosystem on Sidney Spit.
- Increasing rare plant populations by sowing nursery-grown seed onto prepared habitat.
- Installing fencing and signage to improve site protection and enhance visitor facilities and learning opportunities.
- Fostering engagement with volunteers and partners to contribute to the project; collaborating with other organizations in the region involved in coastal sand ecosystem restoration.

### Accomplishments:

- Removed 99% of invasive shrubs
- Removed 55% of beach grass
- Grew 30,000 new endangered contorted-pod evening-primrose
- Published new interpretive signage
- 241 new volunteers, who contributed more than 1,500 hours.



Photos: Common Nighthawk by Pippl Lawn, Surveying Contorted-pod Evening Primrose by Nicole Paloczny

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## 4. Recovery planning for listed species

### 4.1. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Once a species is listed on Schedule 1, there are obligations in the Act for recovery planning. Proposed recovery strategies, action plans and management plans are posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry for a 60-day public comment period. The competent ministers consider comments and make changes where appropriate. The final recovery strategy action plan or management plan, as applicable, is to be published on the public registry within 30 days after the expiry of the public comment period. Five years after a recovery strategy, action plan or management plan comes into effect, the competent minister must report on the progress made toward achieving the stated objectives.

Recovery strategies have the following steps:

1. Identify threats to the species and its habitat,
2. Identify critical habitat to the extent possible,
3. Set population and distribution objectives for the species

Action plans outline the projects or activities required to meet the objectives outlined in the recovery strategy. This includes information on the species habitat, protection measures, and an evaluation of the socio-economic costs and benefits. Management plans identify conservation measures needed to prevent a species listed as special concern from becoming threatened or endangered, but do not identify critical habitat.

## 4.2. RECOVERY PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN 2017

Under SARA, the competent ministers must prepare recovery strategies and action plans for the species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened and management plans for those listed as special concern.

ECCC's Three-Year Recovery Document Posting Plan, published in 2014, identifies the 192 species for which recovery documents would be posted each fiscal year starting in 2014. As of the end of 2017, recovery documents had been posted for 94% of these species. The posting plan and progress in publishing proposed recovery strategies and management plans to date are available on the Species at Risk Public Registry at [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html).

DFO's proposed recovery document posting plan can be viewed at: [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html).

### 4.2.1. Recovery Strategies

In 2017, ECCC posted proposed recovery strategies for 33 species and final recovery strategies for 35 species. PCA posted proposed recovery strategies for two species and a final recovery strategy for one species in 2017. DFO posted proposed recovery strategies for 1 species, but did not post any final recovery strategies in 2017. New recovery strategies that were posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry are listed in Table 6.

**Table 6: Species for which recovery strategies were posted in 2017 by competent department**

Competent department	Final recovery strategies: Species	Proposed recovery strategies: Species
<b>Environment and Climate Change Canada</b>	Aweme Borer Bert's Predaceous Diving Beetle Branched Bartonia Chestnut-collared Longspur Cliff Paintbrush Behr's (columbia) Hairstreak Bent Spike-rush (Great Lakes Plains population) Canada Warbler Cherry Birch	Blue Racer Allegheny Dusty Mountain Salamander Desert Nightsnake Dun Skipper (Western population) Eastern Foxsnake (Carolinian population) American Chestnut American Colombo Barn Owl (Eastern population) Bicknell's Thrush Bird's-foot Violet

Competent department	Final recovery strategies: Species	Proposed recovery strategies: Species
<b>Environment and Climate Change Canada</b>	Common Nighthawk Drooping Trillium Golden-winged Warbler Half-moon Hairstreak Jefferson Salamander Nodding Pogonia Ogden's Pondweed Olive-sided Flycatcher Oregon Forestsnail Pale-bellied Frost Lichen Dun Skipper (Western population) Edward's Beach Moth Queensnake Townsend's Mole Verna's Flower Moth Vesper Sparrow affinis subspecies False Rue-anemone Great Basin Spadefoot Greater Sage-Grouse <i>phaios</i> subspecies Illinois Tick-trefoil Large Whorled Pogonia Lewis's Woodpecker Wolverine (Eastern population) Yellow-breasted Chat auricollis subspecies Mexican Mosquito-fernn Mormon Metalmark (Southern Mountain population) Mountain Holly Fern Northern Leopard Frog (Rocky Mountain population) Pacific Gophersnake Pallid Bat Pygmy Short-horned Lizard Red Knot <i>roselaari</i> type Red Knot <i>rufa</i> subspecies Round-leaved Greenbrier (Great Lakes Plains population) Seaside Bone Lichen Showy Phlox	Blanding's Turtle Foxsnake (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population) Blue-grey Taildropper Slug Butler's Gartersnake Eastern Musk Turtle Persius Duskywing Edwards' Beach Moth Five-spotted Bogus Yucca Moth False Rue-anemone Juniper Sedge Frosted Elfin Gattinger's Agalinis Gray Ratsnake (Carolinian population) Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle Northern Leopard Frog (Rocky Mountain population) Gray Ratsnake (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population) Great Basin Gophersnake Prairie Skink Purple Twayblade Rapids Clubtail Great Basin Spadefoot Greater Sage-Grouse <i>phaios</i> subspecies Grey Fox Illinois Tick-trefoil Karner Blue Mexican Mosquito-fern Mormon Metalmark (Southern Mountain population) Non-pollinating Yucca Moth Northern Bobwhite Pallid Bat Pygmy Short-horned Lizard Round-leaved Greenbrier (Great Lakes Plains population) Sharp-tailed Snake Showy Phlox Small-flowered Lipocarpha Small-mouthed Salamander Rusty-patched Bumble Bee

Competent department	Final recovery strategies: Species	Proposed recovery strategies: Species
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Spalding's Campion Streambank Lupine Tall Bugbane Tiger Salamander (Southern Mountain population) Victoria's Owl-clover Virginia Goat's-rue Wallis' Dark Saltflat Tiger Beetle Western Silvery Aster Willowleaf Aster	Tiger Salamander (Southern Mountain population) Victoria's Owl Slender Bush-clover Spiny Softshell Spotted Turtle Western Silvery Aster Whitebark Pine Wood Bison Wood Turtle
Parks Canada Agency	Dromedary Jumping-slug	Dromedary Jumping-slug Northern Goshawk <i>laingi</i> subspecies
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Harbour Seal Lacs des Loups Marins subspecies	

#### 4.2.2. Action plans

An action plan identifies the conservation measures required to address the threats to the species and meet the population and distribution objectives outlined in the recovery strategy. An action plan must identify critical habitat or complete the identification of critical habitat, if it is not fully identified in the recovery strategy.

In 2017, ECCC posted a proposed action plan for one species and a final multi-species action plan for four species. PCA posted 10 proposed and 11 final multi-species action plans covering a total of 51 different extirpated, endangered and threatened (EET) SARA-listed species on PCA lands and waters. DFO posted proposed action plans for 6 species and final action plans for 10 species.

**Table 7: Species for which action plans were posted in 2017**

Competent department	Final action plans	Proposed action plans
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Action Plan for Multiple Species at Risk in Southwestern Saskatchewan: South of the Divide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burrowing Owl</li> <li>• Loggerhead Shrike Prairie subspecies</li> <li>• Mountain Plover</li> <li>• Sprague's Pipit</li> </ul>	Porsild's Bryum Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population
Parks Canada Agency Multi-species Action Plans (Number of EET SARA-listed species in action plan) <sup>3</sup>	Banff National Park of Canada (7) Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site of Canada (6) Jasper National Park of Canada (7) Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada (12) Kootenay National Park of Canada (5)	Banff National Park of Canada (7) Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site of Canada (6) Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (16) Jasper National Park of Canada (7) Kootenay National Park of Canada (5)

<sup>3</sup> Note that an individual species may be covered in more than one multi-species action plan.

Competent department	Final action plans	Proposed action plans
Parks Canada Agency Multi-species Action Plans (Number of EET SARA-listed species in action plan)	Mount Revelstoke National Park of Canada Glacier National Park of Canada (5) Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada (18) Pukaskwa National Park of Canada (7) Terra Nova National Park of Canada (5) Waterton Lakes National Park of Canada and Bar U Ranch National Historic Site of Canada (8) Yoho National Park of Canada (3)	Mount Revelstoke National Park of Canada Glacier National Park of Canada (5) Pukaskwa National Park of Canada (7) Terra Nova National Park of Canada (5) Waterton Lakes National Park of Canada and Bar U Ranch National Historic Site of Canada (8) Yoho National Park of Canada (3)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Blue Whale (Pacific population) Cultus Pygmy Sculpin Fin Whale (Pacific population) Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific Southern Resident population) Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific Northern Resident population) Nooksack Dace North Pacific Right Whale Northern Bottlenose Whale (Scotian Shelf population) Salish Sucker Sei Whale (Pacific population)	Carmine Shiner Hotwater Physa Leatherback Sea Turtle (Pacific population) Rocky Mountain Sculpin (Eastslope populations) Western Brook Lamprey (Morrison Creek population) Western Silvery Minnow

## Action Plan for the Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population in Canada: Federal Actions

Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population, referred to as ‘boreal caribou,’ are a forest-dwelling, sedentary caribou that are distributed broadly across the boreal forest of Canada and are listed as threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*. The status of this iconic species is considered by many to be an indicator of the overall state of Canada’s boreal forest ecosystem. The primary threat to boreal caribou is unnaturally high predation rates resulting from human-caused habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. Environment and Climate Change Canada’s (ECCC) 2012 Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal population in Canada set the recovery goal to achieve self-sustaining local populations in all current boreal caribou ranges throughout their distribution in Canada.

On July 27, 2017, the Proposed Action Plan for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Canada: Federal Actions was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry for a 60-day public comment period. The Action Plan outlines the recovery measures the Government of Canada is taking, or plans to take, to help achieve the recovery goal and population and distribution objectives for boreal caribou, as identified in the Recovery Strategy. The federal recovery measures are structured under three pillars: Knowledge to Support Recovery, Recovery and Protection, and Reporting on Progress.



In order to provide partners and interested parties with a better understanding of the proposed Action Plan, ECCC hosted four information sessions by webinar in September 2017, which were attended by over 250 people. In total, over 80 written comments on the proposed Action Plan were received from provinces and territories, Wildlife Management Boards, Indigenous peoples, municipal governments, stakeholders and individual Canadians.

ECCC reviewed all the comments received and revised to the Action Plan to address comments and concerns expressed. The comments helped ECCC to gain a better understanding of the perspective, ideas, questions, and concerns of partners and interested parties. Some of the comments received did not result in a change to the Action Plan as they were more applicable to provincial or territorial recovery planning documents, range planning processes or on-going engagement efforts. Other comments were noted for consideration in future research, planning and reporting.

The recovery of this species requires unprecedented commitment, collaboration and cooperation among the various groups involved in the conservation of boreal caribou. The Action Plan sets out the Federal Government's contribution to support boreal caribou recovery and protection in collaboration with partners and stakeholders. The implementation of the federal Action Plan will provide information necessary for better decision-making and improved outcomes for boreal caribou on the ground.

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#### **4.2.3. Identification of critical habitat**

SARA defines “critical habitat” as the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species and that is identified as the species’ critical habitat in the recovery strategy or in an action plan. Competent ministers must identify critical habitat, based on the best available information.

In 2017, ECCC published final recovery strategies in which critical habitat was identified for 23 species, and proposed recovery strategies in which critical habitat was identified for 26 species. ECCC also published a final multi-species action plan in which critical habitat was identified for one species.

In 2017, PCA identified critical habitat in a final recovery strategy for one species (Dromedary Jumping Slug) and also identified critical habitat in a proposed recovery strategy for one species (Northern Goshawk laingi subspecies). PCA also identified critical habitat for four species in final action plans in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada (Sand-verbena Moth and Seaside Centipede Lichen) and Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada (Eastern Ribbonsnake and Vole Ears Lichen). The Agency also identified critical habitat for one species in the proposed multi-species action plan for Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada (Contorted-pod Evening-primrose). Information for all species mentioned above is posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry.

In 2017, DFO published a proposed recovery strategy in which critical habitat was identified for 1 species.

#### 4.2.4. Management plans

Species of special concern are those that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats. SARA requires competent ministers to prepare management plans for species of special concern. A management plan differs from a recovery strategy and an action plan, in that it identifies conservation measures needed to prevent a species of special concern from becoming threatened or endangered, but does not identify critical habitat. Where appropriate, these management plans may be prepared for multiple species on an ecosystem or landscape level.

**Table 8: Species for which management plans were posted in 2017 (by competent department)**

Competent department	Final management plans: Species	Proposed management plans: Species
<b>Environment and Climate Change Canada</b>	Black-footed Albatross Coeur d'Alene Salamander Northern Red-legged Frog Northern Rubber Boa Oldgrowth Specklebelly Lichen Peregrine Falcon <i>anatum/tundrius</i> Peregrine Falcon <i>pealei</i> subspecies Red Knot <i>islandica</i> subspecies	Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population) Eastern Wolf Hairy Prairie-clover Lyal's Mariposa Lily Peregrine Falcon <i>pealei</i> subspecies Threaded Vertigo Weidemeyer's Admiral Western Blue Flag Western Painted Turtle
<b>Parks Canada Agency</b>	Nil	Nil
<b>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</b>	Fin Whale (Atlantic population) Green Sturgeon Sowerby's Beaked Whale Westslope Cutthroat Trout (Pacific populations)	Nil

### 4.3. PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT

In 2017, ECCC protected critical habitat for three species in four National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) and three Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS):

- Piping Plover, *melodus* subspecies (Big Glace Bay Lake Bird Sanctuary and Black Pond Bird Sanctuary)
- Lewis's Woodpecker (Vaseux-Bighorn NWA and Vaseux Lake Bird Sanctuary)
- Queensnake (Big Creek NWA, Long Point NWA and St. Clair NWA)

In 2017, PCA protected critical habitat for five species in five protected heritage places (national parks, national historic sites, national park reserves and marine conservation areas):

- Eastern Ribbonsnake (Atlantic population) (Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada);
- Northern Abalone (Gwaii Haanas Marine Conservation Area and Haida Heritage Site and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada);
- Porsild's Bryum (Quttinirpaaq National Park of Canada);
- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa* subspecies) (Wapusk National Park of Canada); and
- Vole Ears Lichen (Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada).

Efforts are ongoing to finalize protection measures for critical habitat of other species on lands administered by PCA. In 2017, DFO protected critical habitat for the following five aquatic species at risk:

- Beluga Whale, St. Lawrence Estuary population
- North Atlantic Right Whale
- Rocky Mountain Sculpin, Eastslope populations
- Eastern Sand Darter, Ontario populations
- Spotted Gar

A joint order was made by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister responsible for Parks Canada Agency to protect critical habitat for the Northern Abalone.

DFO also published proposed orders to protect critical habitat for two species:

- Northern Bottlenose Whale, Scotian Shelf population
- Lake Chubsucker

To further help protect aquatic species at risk, DFO encourages people who are considering a construction project to visit [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/fpp-ppp/index-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/fpp-ppp/index-eng.htm) to facilitate locating these species and thus plan their project accordingly.



Photo by Getty Images

### 4.4. RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Government of Canada biologists across Canada led or supported dozens of activities, including research projects, education and awareness, habitat restoration or enhancement initiatives, monitoring, assessment, and more.

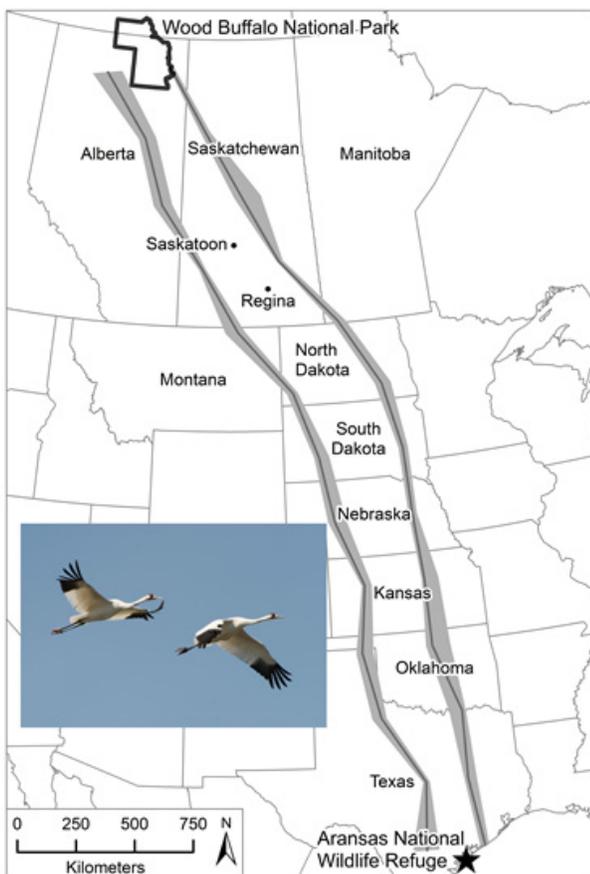
#### 4.4.1. Competent Departments' Recovery Activities

In 2017, ECCC continued to lead and support numerous activities targeting the recovery of species at risk. ECCC progressed in the development of conservation agreements under section 11 as a tool bringing partners together to commit to conservation measures for the benefit of species at risk. One conservation agreement was signed in 2017 with an Indigenous band, and negotiations with several other groups have taken place and are expected to result in an increased number of agreements for 2018.

### Success Story: Delineating the migration corridor of an endangered species: an example of successful international cooperation for SAR recovery

The gradual progress towards recovery of the endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*), which migrates twice annually between northern Canada and the southern United States, demonstrates the importance of international cooperation and long-term commitment to monitoring and recovery of migratory species. Close cooperation between Canadian and U.S. governments began in the 1950's and continues today with a focus on population management, protection of key habitat, reduction of threats, population monitoring and applied

research. This cooperative approach has enabled the Aransas-Wood Buffalo population of whooping cranes, the last remaining wild and self-sustaining population of the species, to increase from a low of 14 birds in 1939 to a high of 431 in 2017. In the summer of 2017, biologists from ECCC and Parks Canada observed 98 nesting pairs, the highest number ever counted, in and near Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP), the only location where this population is known to nest. The population continues to grow at an average rate of about 4% per year.



As part of longstanding international efforts to recover this species, government biologists in Canada and the USA recently collaborated to delineate the contemporary migration corridor of whooping cranes. Researchers determined the migration corridor using data from historical observations and recent tracking of cranes using satellite transmitters, highlighting the importance of long term monitoring and focused research. Each year, the fall migration of whooping cranes takes them from their breeding grounds in and near WBNP, through northeastern Alberta and central Saskatchewan, across the Great Plains to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Texas. The Prairie Pothole Region of Saskatchewan and North Dakota, the

Nebraska Sandhills area, the Rainwater Basin Area in southeastern Nebraska, and the Playa Lakes Region of Oklahoma and north-central Texas are critically important areas for migrating whooping cranes. The area is characterized in part by a high abundance of wetlands and riverine habitats which are vital as roosting and foraging

sites during their migration. The migration corridor is well-defined and compact, occupying an average width from east to west of approximately 300 km, but expanding to just over 400 km wide at the international border.

Over the decades, the whooping crane migration corridor has shifted slightly to the east, at an average rate of 1.2 km per year, and it also narrowed slightly during that time. Changes in the corridor over the past eight decades suggest that agencies and organizations responsible for the recovery of this species may need to modify where recovery actions occur. The study suggested that whooping cranes can modify their migratory behaviour in response to environmental change, likely necessary for persistence of this wetland-dependent species migrating through the drought-prone Prairies and Great Plains. This apparent flexibility in migratory behaviour may contribute to the recovery of the species in a future of uncertain climate and land use changes throughout their annual range. Finally, improved knowledge from this study about the areas used by whooping cranes during migration will contribute to efforts to mitigate potential impacts of industrial development throughout the migration corridor.

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In 2017, PCA continued to implement recovery activities in and around protected heritage places, including research, restoration activities, and public outreach and education. Several PCA projects are conducted in partnership with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private citizens and Indigenous communities. Conservation and restoration projects are recovering, restoring and enhancing ecosystems and species at risk across Canada; from recovering species at risk in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve on the west coast, to restoring the boreal forest in Terra Nova National Park on the east coast, to reconnecting lakes and rivers in La Mauricie National Park.

In 2017, DFO continued to implement recovery activities including: research, strategic regulatory sign placement, partnering with provincial wildlife conservation staff to share knowledge and build relationships in support of protecting species, environmental restoration opportunities, and targeted site visits.

In its tenth year, DFO's Marine Mammal Response Program departmental personnel and external partner organizations carried out 261 responses nationally for species at risk.

Responses included:

- freeing whales from fishing gear entanglements;
- monitoring close approaches by vessels;
- refloating live stranded animals;
- reuniting stranded animals with their pods;
- warming cold, stunned sea turtles;
- performing necropsies on dead animals to determine cause of death; and
- investigating incidents of harassment.

The information collected during these response activities helps DFO monitor and evaluate the threat level from these forms of harm and find ways to reduce entanglements and vessel collisions. Outreach activities help to educate the public on ways to help protect and avoid harming marine animals.

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## Endangered Beluga Rescued

A young male beluga whale that lost its way in a northern New Brunswick river was rescued in a unique and complex operation that saw the endangered marine mammal travel by land, air and sea before being reunited with a pod in its natural habitat. The juvenile male whale swam into New Brunswick's Nepisiguit River, perhaps following a school of fish or an impulsive youthful drive for adventure. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, marine mammal groups and scientists banded together and launched a rescue mission to move the wayward beluga back to the deep blue sea.

Rescuers gently helped the whale into a hoop net, using an acoustic deterrent device to direct the beluga towards the netting, and then transferred him to a stretcher. The marine mammal was assessed by a veterinarian and given an injection to keep him calm during the transport which kept him in a pretty stable condition during the transport. The whale was then carried from the river to the back of a truck, where he was transported to the Bathurst, N.B., airport. The beluga was then carefully loaded onto a small airplane and flown to Riviere-du-Loup, about 200 kilometers northeast of Quebec City. The veterinarian stayed by the beluga's side during the flight and gave him intravenous fluids.

The whale's journey continued in Quebec as it was loaded back on to a truck and transported to a port near Cacouna, where it was put on a boat. Rescuers then ferried the young whale to an area near a pod of belugas, and set it free. The whale re-entered the ocean through the St. Lawrence Estuary near Cacouna, Quebec. The whale was equipped with a tracking device to aid scientists in following its movements. Belugas are extremely social creatures, so the rescued whale has a good chance of staying with a new pod.

Fisheries and Oceans, the Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals, the Marine Animal Response Society, the Vancouver Aquarium, the Shedd Aquarium from Chicago, Ill., the Whale Stewardship Project and veterinarians from the Universite de Montreal were major players in the relocation effort.

Photo by Getty Images



## Case Study: eDNA - Species at Risk Monitoring and Management

Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to work to foster innovation and improve monitoring and management techniques for species at risk. Conventional aquatic species monitoring generally relies on morphological methods and surveys (e.g., electrofishing, net capture), which can be time-consuming, labour intensive, and may negatively impact sensitive species and ecosystems. These limitations have created a need for alternative approaches.

DFO has been exploring the feasibility of environmental DNA (eDNA) for use in species monitoring and management. eDNA refers to genetic material that can be extracted directly from environmental samples (water, sediment, etc.) to detect and conduct genetic analyses for the research and management of species. It is an efficient and non-lethal tool that holds the potential to improve biodiversity monitoring, especially when coupled with sensitive and ever-advancing DNA sequencing technology.

eDNA offers the following potential advantages:

1. Can help reduce impacts on rare and sensitive species where direct handling may cause harm.
2. Less time-consuming and labour-intensive than conventional methods.
3. Real-time monitoring of species at risk and other species important to their survival (e.g. host fish).

As an example of eDNA in practice, DFO started a 2-year (2017-2019) project to develop a species-specific eDNA assay for the Brook Floater and more than 20 aquatic invasive species in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Brook Floater is a small freshwater mussel that is listed as Special Concern under SARA.



Photo: Collection and filtration of water samples for analysis (Credit: Southeastern Anglers)



Photo: Non-lethal DNA sampling for the Brook Floater (DFO credit)



Photo: Traditional survey method for the Brook Floater (DFO credit)

Field sampling of eDNA occurred in New Brunswick watersheds in 2017-2018 using an easy and low-cost sampling method and involving the contribution of one Indigenous community and a few watershed groups. eDNA testing resulted in a positive detection of Brook Floaters in sites where conventional surveys were recently conducted (2016 & 2017), as well as in sites where surveys were conducted in the past.

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#### 4.4.2. Habitat Stewardship Program

The Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk was established in 2000 as part of the National Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk. The overall goals of the HSP are to contribute to the recovery of endangered, threatened and other species at risk, and to prevent other species from becoming a conservation concern, by involving Canadians from all walks of life in conservation actions to benefit wildlife.

The HSP is co-managed by ECCC, DFO and PCA, and administered by ECCC on a regional basis. Regional Implementation Boards include representatives from federal, provincial and territorial governments, and various stakeholders. These boards provide advice on priorities and project selection for their regions.

The most complete data available for the HSP at the end of 2017 is for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Funding under the HSP is separated into two distinct streams.

1. The Species at Risk Stream

2. The Prevention Stream

1. The HSP Species at Risk Stream focuses on projects addressing the recovery of species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of SARA. Results are focused on:

- securing or protecting important habitat for the recovery of species at risk;
- improving, through restoration/enhancement, or managing important habitat to meet the recovery needs of species at risk;
- removing or mitigating threats to species at risk or their habitat caused by human activities; or
- engaging Canadians (landowners, resource users, volunteers) to participate directly in activities that support the recovery of species at risk so that project benefits are sustained over time.

During the 2016–2017 fiscal year:

- 141 new projects and 42 previously approved multi-year projects involving 155 unique funding recipients contributed to the recovery efforts of over 195 unique SARA-listed species across Canada.
- A total of \$13.1 million in HSP SAR Stream funding was awarded to these projects, and an additional \$33.8 million (cash and in-kind) was leveraged from partners, for a total investment of \$46.9 million.

These contributions provided support to stewardship efforts across Canada that resulted in the securement and protection of over 132,600 ha of land, including more than 3,000 ha through legally binding means, such as acquisition or conservation easements. Non-legally binding protection was put in place through the use of written conservation agreements with landowners, which accounts for over 129,600 ha, including more than 114,300 ha through renewed conservation agreements and more than 15,300 ha through new conservation agreements. The program also supported the improvement or restoration of more than 27,200 ha of land and 50 km of shoreline.

2. The HSP Prevention Stream focuses on projects addressing other species, beyond those listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, to prevent them from becoming a conservation concern. It targets the same results as the Species at Risk Stream.

During the 2016–2017 fiscal year:

- the HSP Prevention Stream funded 63 new projects and 14 previously approved multi-year projects, which support work to prevent species from becoming a conservation concern.

A total of over \$2.9 million in HSP Prevention Stream funding was awarded to these projects, and an additional \$6.1 million (cash and in-kind) was leveraged from partners, for a total investment of over \$9 million.

These contributions provided support to stewardship efforts across Canada that resulted in the securement and protection of more than 5,800 ha of land, including 300 ha through legally binding means, such as acquisition or conservation easements. Non-legally binding protection was put in place through the use of written conservation agreements with landowners, which accounts for more than 5,500 ha, including over 73 ha through renewed conservation agreements and over 5,400 ha through new conservation agreements. The program also supported the improvement or restoration of more than 2,500 ha of land and 19 km of shoreline.

Further information on the program is available online at [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/habitat-stewardship-species-at-risk.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/habitat-stewardship-species-at-risk.html).

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## Case Study: Engaging Farmers in the Recovery of Species at Risk in the Richelieu Valley, Southern Quebec

With support from the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (Species at Risk Stream), Groupe ProConseil led a one-year outreach project to work with farmers in southern Quebec on conserving species at risk fish populations in the Beloeil Stream. The work focused on improving the habitat quality for five species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA): the Endangered Copper Redhorse (*Moxostoma hubbsi*); the Threatened Eastern Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta pellucida*); the Threatened Channel Darter (*Percina copelandi*); the Special Concern Bridle Shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*); and the Special Concern River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*).

### What was the significance of this project?

Working with farmers and developing conservation manuals will help reduce erosion and improve water quality in the Richelieu River watershed. This will lead to improved habitat for five SARA-listed fish.

### Why this project is important?

Agricultural and urban development activities have negatively impacted surface water quality on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River near Montreal, Quebec. High concentrations of suspended solids, nutrients and toxic pesticides all enter streams in agricultural runoff from nearby farms. Beloeil Stream in the Richelieu River watershed is one of that area's most adversely impacted water bodies by local agricultural activities. Management of Beloeil Stream water quality is imperative for the survival of its fish.

### Activities and accomplishments

- A public meeting with 34 local farmers and agricultural advisors was organized to launch the Beloeil Stream conservation program. The project scope, objectives and action plans were presented, along with information on the species at risk targeted by the project.
- 36 farmers and local officials took part in a day-long tour of demonstration sites to showcase proper stream and streambank conservation measures. The conservation measures included a three meter buffer zone between the stream and the agricultural fields vegetated by grasses, shrubs or trees.
- 27 willing farmers with land adjoining the Beloeil Stream were provided customized conservation manuals prepared for each farm. The manuals listed specific measures that the farmers could undertake to conserve, protect and restore aquatic habitats and improve stream water quality on their properties. 23 of these farmers also met in person with a biologist and an agrologist to work on specific conservation plans for their farms.

- Eight farmers were given fall rye seeds as a cover crop and were educated about the use of cover crops on their fields post-harvest as a means of reducing soil erosion over the winter.
- A six-member project monitoring committee comprised of farmers and representatives of the municipality was established. The committee held three meetings to organize future outreach efforts for promoting stream health.

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#### 4.4.3. Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk

The Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR), established in 2004, helps Indigenous organizations and communities across Canada build capacity to participate in the conservation and recovery of species at risk. The program also helps to protect and recover critical habitat or habitat important for species at risk on or near First Nations reserve land or on land and waters traditionally used by Indigenous peoples.

AFSAR is co-managed by ECCC, DFO, and PCA, with the support of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the guidance of National Indigenous Organizations. It is administered by ECCC and DFO on a regional basis. Regional Management Teams include representatives from federal, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous representatives, and various stakeholders. These teams provide advice on priorities and project selection for their regions.

The most complete data available for AFSAR at the end of 2017 is for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Funding under AFSAR is separated into two distinct streams:

1. Species at Risk Stream
2. The Prevention Stream

The AFSAR Species at Risk Stream focuses on projects addressing the recovery of species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, targeting results in four main areas:

- strengthening capacity in Indigenous communities for SARA implementation;
- mitigating threats to species at risk, be they individuals or populations;
- protecting, improving or managing critical and important habitat of species at risk; and
- documenting and conserving Indigenous traditional knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge on species at risk and, where appropriate, helping ensure their use in the development of recovery objectives.

During the 2016–2017 fiscal year the AFSAR Species at Risk Stream:

- provided \$3.3 million to 30 new projects and 37 previously approved multi-year projects
- leveraged additional funds that exceeded \$3.3 million (cash and in kind)
- involved 55 Indigenous organizations and communities as recipients.

These contributions provided support to stewardship efforts across Canada that resulted in the securement and protection of just over 2,770 ha of land, including 60 ha through legally binding means, such as acquisition or conservation easements.

Non-legally binding protection was put in place through the use of written conservation agreements with landowners, which accounts for just over 2,700 ha, including renewed and new conservation agreements. The program also supported the improvement or restoration of more than 80 ha of land and 180 km of shoreline. Funded projects helped 98 SARA-listed species, mostly through increased Indigenous awareness of species at risk and through the development of strategies, guidelines and practices or the completion of monitoring studies, surveys and inventories.

## 2. The Prevention Stream.

The AFSAR Prevention Stream focuses on projects addressing other species, beyond those listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, to prevent them from becoming a conservation concern. It targets the same results as the Species at Risk Stream.

During the 2016–2017 fiscal year the AFSAR Prevention Stream:

- provided over \$1.2 million to 29 new and two previously approved multi-year projects to prevent species other than listed species at risk from becoming a conservation concern.

These projects involved 26 Indigenous organizations and communities as recipients. These contributions also supported the improvement or restoration of more than 1,430 ha of land and 33 km of shoreline.

Further information on the program is available online at [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/aboriginal-fund-species-risk.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/aboriginal-fund-species-risk.html)

### 4.4.4. Interdepartmental Recovery Fund

Established in 2002, the Interdepartmental Recovery Fund (IRF), administered by ECCC, supports species at risk projects undertaken by federal government departments, agencies and Crown corporations (other than ECCC, DFO, and PCA). Funded projects predominantly occur on lands owned or administered by federal organizations and directly relate to the implementation of activities identified in recovery strategies or action plans, or surveys of species at risk. Further information on the program is available online at [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html).

Between its inception in 2002 and the end of March 2017, the IRF has invested over \$22.5 million in more than 710 projects which supported recovery efforts for more than 310 SARA-listed species. In the 2016–2017 fiscal year, the IRF supported 15 projects in fourteen federal departments and one Crown corporation. Collectively, \$702,000 in program funding and \$1.02 million in leveraged funds (cash and in-kind) from project leads and other partners, supported recovery efforts for 42 SARA-listed species. In 2016–2017, 78% of program funds supported recovery actions, 16% supported surveys, and 6% supported planning activities.

## 4.5. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

In 2017, ECCC produced and delivered information in various forms to educate Canadians about the role they can play in protecting species at risk and their habitats. There was also a strong focus on engaging other government departments to provide introductory training on SARA for employees who work directly with the Act.

ECCC continues to educate Canadians about species at risk through its longstanding partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation in delivering the Hinterland Who's Who wildlife education program ([www.hww.ca](http://www.hww.ca)), and by developing and publishing species profiles on the Species at Risk Public Registry.

PCA continues to promote species at risk protection and has developed a new Integrated Compliance and Law Enforcement Planning Process. The process will maintain its focus on proactive communication with visitors to highlight the connection between their actions and the effect they can have on the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitat.

Public engagement activities related to species at risk occur in national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas across the country. These activities include interpretative programs, field trips, special events and volunteer activities, including participation in restoration and monitoring projects (i.e., citizen science).

In addition, PCA has a number of outreach programs that focus on reaching youth, families and new Canadians in urban areas in order to increase awareness, understanding and foster support for species at risk protection and recovery. In 2017, this included outreach programs at special events and festivals, and at several partner venues (e.g., zoos and aquariums) in large cities such as Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary and Ottawa. Information about species at risk was also shared through the PCA website, social media, traditional media and organizations that reach out to the public with various programs, articles and websites.

DFO continued working with partners to provide education and outreach activities (e.g. school visits, trade shows, workshops, and industry and community meetings) on the threats to aquatic species at risk and ways to help protect them.

In January 2017, Newfoundland and Labrador fishery officers made presentations on species at risk to the Primary School in Hopedale, Labrador. Students learned about species like Leatherback sea turtles and Beluga whales, played educational games on the topic and had an opportunity to ask lots of questions. Fishery officers plan to continue species at risk outreach sessions in the North Coast communities over the next few years.

As in past years, public outreach activities in Newfoundland and Labrador included life-sized textile replicas of Blue Whale tails, a Beluga Whale, and four Wolffish (2 Northern, 1 Spotted and 1 Striped). This year, 9 white sharks were added to the display. The replicas are used to provide information about the species, the role of the department in protecting them, and the way individuals can help conserve species.



Illustration: DFO

During the June 2017 World Oceans Day in Corner Brook Newfoundland, DFO Fishery Officers partnered with the Marine Institute and the Qalipu First Nations, to spread the word on the importance of our oceans and our part in keeping marine life off the endangered species list. Eleven sessions in six schools on the West Coast of Newfoundland reached over 540 students from kindergarten to grade 9. Focus was on the dangers of plastic pollution, such as garbage bags, in our oceans and what it means to the Leatherback Sea Turtle's survival. A Qalipu First Nations representative from youth engagement incorporated a water ceremony/dance/prayer piece in the session which promoted interaction with the children on the importance of keeping our waters pure and clean for the survival of all marine life. A giant floor map engaged students in visual fact finding activities that included species migration patterns and feeding areas. The event which spanned three days was declared a huge success by all who attended.

To take a better bag challenge, go here: [www.worldoceansday.org/better-bag-challenge](http://www.worldoceansday.org/better-bag-challenge)

## 4.6. SPECIES AT RISK POPULATION TRENDS

Determining population trends in rare species can present challenges. Many of these individuals are difficult to find and identify. Species need time to recover and long-lived species may require many decades. In addition, observations of rare species are often difficult to collect.

### 4.6.1. Consistency of Population Trends of Species at Risk

The indicator assesses the recovery trends of species at risk for which final recovery documents and trends information are available. Results should not be interpreted as a measure of recovery success until sufficient time has passed to allow species to recover and to allow enough information to be collected to assess that recovery.

Of the 378 species at risk with recovery strategies or management plans as of May 2017, 143 species have population-oriented objectives and have been reassessed since their recovery documents were finalized.

In 2017, 13 species were added to the indicator. Of the trends for the nine animal species, three were improving, four were not, and two had both some indication of improvement and some indication of decline. For the four plant species, three were improving and one had differing trends at different sites. Overall, there was no evidence that certain species are recovering more quickly than others.

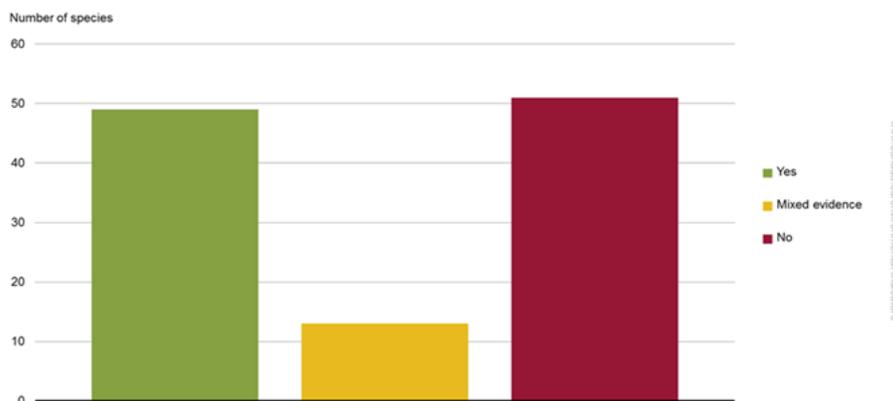


Figure 2: Consistency of species at risk recovery trends with objectives as of May 2017

### 4.6.2. Changes in Wildlife Species Status Indicator

What the indicator measures

The Changes in the status of wildlife species at risk indicator reports on changes in wildlife species designations for wildlife species assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The committee is composed of independent experts who determine the national status of Canadian wildlife species, subspecies, varieties or other designatable units that are suspected of being at risk of extinction or extirpation.

Identifying wildlife species at risk is the first step towards protecting these species. Wildlife species previously designated as being at risk are reassessed, usually after 10 years, to determine if there is a change in status.

As of May 2017, of the 455 wildlife species for which sufficient data are available to determine if there has been a change in status:, 292 (65%) (Figure 3) show no change in status, 80 (18%) are in a lower risk category and 83 (18%) are in a higher risk category.

Of the 155 wildlife species ranked as endangered (a wildlife species facing imminent extirpation or extinction) in the previous assessment:

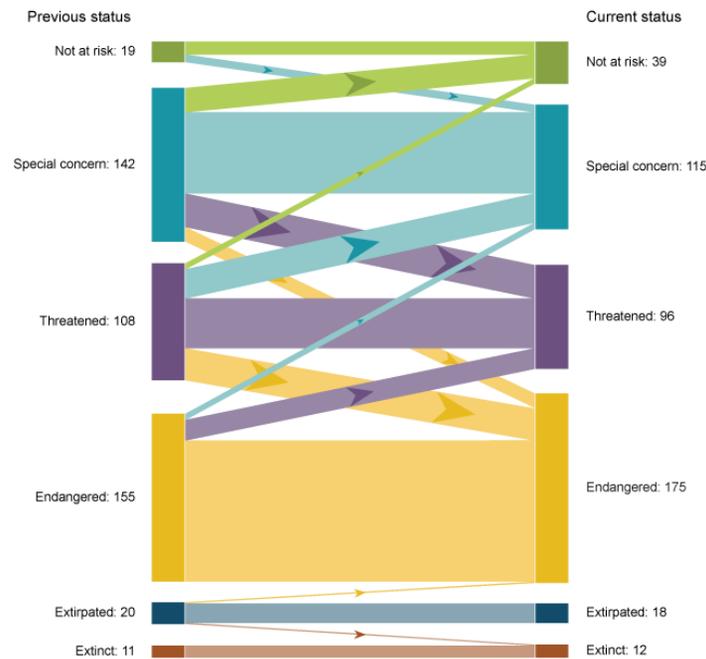
- the majority 130 (84%) remained in that status category
- the remaining 25 (16%) wildlife species changed to a lower risk category

One extirpated species, the Striped Bass, St. Lawrence River population, was re-introduced and is now considered endangered. Another wildlife species, the Atlantic salmon, Lake Ontario population, was last reported in 1898; it was previously classified as extirpated and is now recognized as extinct.

A Sankey diagram (Figure 3) shows the categories of risk of the wildlife species according to the most recent two assessments. The numbers of wildlife species changing from one category to another are represented by connecting bars with arrows.

Note: The chart shows the change between the two most recent assessments for 455 species. The assessments are from various years up to 2017. Eight (8) species have moved to or from the Data deficient category and are not included here.

**Figure 3: COSEWIC: Changes in risk of wildlife species disappearance from Canada, 2016**



Source: Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, May 2017.

## 5. Permits

The competent minister may enter into an agreement or issue a permit under section 73 of SARA for the following activities:

- scientific research related to the conservation of a listed species, conducted by qualified persons;
- activities that benefit a listed species or enhance its chance of survival in the wild; or
- activities that incidentally affect a listed species.

Under s.74, the Act states that an agreement, permit, licence, order or other similar document authorizing a person or organization to engage in an activity affecting a species at risk authorized by the competent minister under another Act of Parliament can have the same effect as an agreement or permit under s.73 of SARA if certain conditions are met, such as meeting the purposes and pre-conditions. These permits are considered “SARA-compliant”.

SARA compliant permits are issued under other Acts of Parliament, such as the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canada National Parks Act*, the *Migratory Bird Convention Act 1994* and the *Canada Wildlife Act* and can have the same effect as a SARA permit.

**Table 9: Permits, agreements and licences issued or enabled under SARA in 2017**

Competent department	SARA permits and agreements (Under s.73 of the Act)	Licences and other documents that act as SARA permits (Enabled under s.74 of the Act)	Grand Total
Environment and Climate Change Canada	40	141	181
Parks Canada Agency	0	18	18
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	147	113	260
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>459</b>

ECCC, PCA and DFO jointly issued a total of 459 SARA permits and SARA compliant permits in 2017.

ECCC issued 40 SARA permits: to allow for activities affecting over 30 species, including reptiles, amphibians, birds, vascular plants, arthropods, molluscs and mammals.

Of the 40 permits issued:

- 12 were for scientific research related to the conservation of a species;
- 3 were for activities benefiting a species or required to enhance its chance of survival in the wild;
- 17 were for activities incidentally affecting a species; and
- 8 were for more than one of these three purposes.

Of the 40, 3 permits were issued for activities carried out in the area affected by an emergency protection order.

ECCC also issued 141 SARA permits affecting threatened and endangered migratory bird species under the MBCA, and the *Canada Wildlife Act*. Details regarding delivery of permit against service standards are available online ([www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/acts-regulations/service-standards.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/acts-regulations/service-standards.html)).

DFO issued 147 SARA permits. DFO also issued 31 fishing licences for experimental, scientific, and educational purposes under section 52 of the Fishery (General) Regulations and five authorizations under paragraph 35(2)(b) of the *Fisheries Act* that are SARA compliant.

Of the 183 permits, licenses and authorizations issued:

- 74 were for scientific research related to the conservation of a species;
- 31 were for other activities that benefit the species or enhance its chance of survival in the wild (e.g. monitoring surveys or marine mammal rescue);and
- 78 were for activities that incidentally affected the listed species (e.g. accidental capture while undertaking research on other non-listed species or fish or mussel relocation during construction activities).

In addition, 77 commercial fishing licences were issued containing provisions permitting incidental bycatch of loggerhead sea turtles.

PCA issued 18 SARA-compliant research permits, most of which were issued under the *Canada National Parks Act*.

Of the 18 permits issued:

- 7 permits covering at least eight listed species were issued to academic and government researchers as well as PCA scientists, for conservation research affecting species at risk (e.g. inventory, population monitoring, habitat use and restoration, and conservation genetics);
- 3 permits were issued for an activity necessary or beneficial to at least four species; and
- 8 eight permits were issued for activities that may incidentally affect at least 11 listed species.

PCA maintains an online research permitting system to enhance services to researchers, and to ensure that the agency is informed of research being conducted in the protected heritage places network. The system incorporates a mandatory peer-review mechanism that ensures that SARA requirements are considered for every research activity.

Explanations for all permits issued under SARA by ECCC, PCA and DFO are posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry at [www.sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/permit/permits\\_e.cfm](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/sar/permit/permits_e.cfm).

## 6. Enforcement

ECCC, PCA and DFO work jointly and in partnership with Indigenous, provincial, territorial and international authorities to protect SARA-listed species and their critical habitat.

In 2017, ECCC focused on two priorities:

- Canadian species at high risk for conservation loss and/or at high risk for non-compliance, such as illegal hunting or trade;
- Habitats or protected areas at high risk for conservation loss and/or at high risk for non-compliance, such as destroying nests or polluting land.

ECCC is responsible for recovery planning for 334 species under SARA (491 of which are protected by the prohibitions). Prohibitions, emergency protection orders and permit conditions are enforced throughout Canada in

the case of migratory birds, and for terrestrial species on federal lands noting a special focus in ECCC's 146 protected areas (National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries).

In 2017, ECCC operated with 73 front line Wildlife Enforcement Officers and 15 intelligence staff to ensure compliance with SARA, as well as related conservation statutes: the MBCA, the *Canada Wildlife Act*, the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA) and the provisions of the *Antarctic Environmental Protection Act* concerning wildlife.

ECCC enforcement officers patrol National Wildlife Areas, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and other lands to ensure compliance with SARA. The protection of these habitats, which include critical habitat identified in SARA recovery strategies, is important given that these habitats are deemed necessary for the conservation and/or recovery and survival of key species.

Enforcement coastal patrols and multi-agency blitz operations target areas with a high level of human wildlife interaction in order to prevent and deter illegal activities disrupting the habitat of these species, as well as to educate and engage the public. This approach has proved to be largely successful in helping to protect SARA-listed species while collaborating with other government organizations and local communities.

Recognizing that the illegal activity involving the destruction of listed plant or animal specimens often impedes its conservation, ECCC has been focusing its compliance and promotion activities on preventing crimes that harm species. While this report speaks to actions taken under the SARA, ECCC relies on other laws to protect species at risk before they are uplisted to the levels where the prohibitions in SARA apply. This involves proactive activities under legislation other than SARA but focused on Species of Special Concern, which are not subject to SARA prohibitions. For example, patrols to verify compliance and provide deterrence and crime prevention in protected areas (i.e. Long Point) and critical habitats (i.e. Roseate Tern) where several SARA species are found, inspecting and clearing regulated goods at border ports for Canadian SARA protected species found in trade (i.e. wild American ginseng, polar bear, spotted turtle). So while this report captures the enforcement activities proper to SARA, it is not necessarily indicative of all work undertaken to protect species at risk.

In 2017, northern communities, where training on the 3-pronged approach for tracking Polar Bear hides that took place in the previous year, continued supporting compliance in harvest and trade of Polar Bears. Communities in Labrador and Nunavut used the Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT) to tag the harvested hides, and collected samples for DNA and Stable Isotope analyses (SIA), which were sent to the laboratories. The implementation of this approach involved partnership with territorial and provincial jurisdictions, engagement with local stakeholders and communities, and training of jurisdictional conservation officers and ECCC wildlife enforcement officers.

In 2017, ECCC conducted 407 inspections under SARA. About 15% of the inspections were concerning Canadian species at high risk for conservation loss and/or at high risk for non-compliance and 85% were related to habitats or protected areas at high risk for conservation loss and/or at high risk for non-compliance. Inspections focused on enforcing the emergency protection order which came into force in July 2016 for the protection of the Western Chorus Frog in Quebec (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence – Canadian Shield population) and the ongoing Greater Sage-Grouse Emergency Protection Order in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Inspections also focused on continued efforts to protect Piping Plovers and their critical habitat in Atlantic Canada, Quebec and Ontario regions. In the case of inspections, some can be of very short duration (minutes) while others can be spread out over many days or weeks.

As a result of these inspections, 21 violations of SARA were recorded. Two investigation files were opened in 2017.

In 2017, there were no convictions and penalties issued under SARA.

DFO's enforcement actions for species at risk are carried out by fishery officers who have been trained and designated as enforcement officers under SARA and who incorporate SARA enforcement activities alongside their duties under the *Fisheries Act* and other federal statutes and regulations.

In 2017, DFO's fishery officers dedicated over 15,000 hours to patrols, inspections, investigations, court cases, public relations and other duties related to enforcing the prohibitions of SARA. The Department recorded a total of 32 SARA violations involving species at risk that resulted in fines, seizures, charges and warnings. Fishery officers initiated 72 investigations and spent over 1,700 hours on investigative work related to species at risk. As well, a number of actions were taken to support the goals of SARA:

- Fishery officers dedicated over 4,000 hours of effort in response to incidents related to the North Atlantic Right Whale and other marine mammals listed under SARA. This work included supporting external partners, such as the Campobello Whale Rescue Team, responding to entangled whale incidents.
- In the Pacific region, Fishery officers worked with Vancouver Aquarium staff to respond to a Steller Sea Lion which was entangled in some twine, managing to free it successfully.

PCA's Law Enforcement Branch is responsible for enforcing all legislation related to the Agency's mandate, including SARA, on all lands and waters administered by the Agency. In 2017, there were 87 park wardens dedicated to law enforcement activities in PCA protected heritage areas. PCA's SARA-related enforcement activities included targeted patrols and investigations of reported violations of the SARA prohibitions. Park wardens recorded a total of 27 law enforcement incidents related to the protection of species at risk in protected heritage areas. These incidents led park wardens to issue 1 warning under SARA as well as to lay 3 charges and to issue 8 warnings under other legislation.

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## Success Story: Sage Grouse Leks in Grasslands National Park

Grasslands National Park is host to several sage grouse leks, areas where sage grouse gather and conduct courtship displays. Sage grouse are sensitive to disturbance and rely on healthy sage brush to provide cover and protection for their nests.

Park Wardens work with Wildlife Officers from ECCC to patrol the areas surrounding the leks, ensuring compliance with the conditions of the Emergency Protection Order. Each spring ECCC visits leks in Grasslands National Park during the mating season. For the last two years, two Wildlife Officers and one Park Warden have conducted patrols in the West Block and the East Block of Grasslands National Park to monitor lek sites for signs of vehicle intrusion or other illegal activity.

These patrols show a united enforcement presence on the landscape and reinforce Parks Canada's mission to support the recovery of this species at risk. Law enforcement presence is limited in this part of Saskatchewan so the patrols also remind local landowners and partners that they are supported in their dedication and commitment to improving sage grouse habitat.

## 7. Monitoring

ECCC collects information on species at risk from its protected areas and through its migratory bird program. Federal funding programs administered by ECCC and, in some cases, co-managed by the department, DFO and PCA (including the Habitat Stewardship Program, the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk and the Interdepartmental Recovery Fund), also support monitoring activities. Information from these initiatives, along with information from partner organizations and researchers, allows the tracking of progress toward meeting recovery goals.

Species at risk monitoring is ongoing within PCA protected heritage places, to assess the long-term condition of the ecosystems as well as the conservation status of species at risk. In 2017, the national database system that tracks the long term condition of species was also used to track the progress towards the completion of activities in final multi-species action plans. The information obtained from monitoring activities and action plan targets is used to determine progress towards achieving both the population and distribution objectives and recovery measure goals as committed to in the multi-species action plans.

### Monitoring of Endangered SARA Species - Prairie and Northern Region

Whooping Cranes  
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada



In the fall of 2017, ECCC Wildlife Enforcement officers in the Saskatoon office actively patrolled and encountered numerous sightings of Whooping cranes. Over a two week period, the officers observed 29 whooping cranes - 3 of which were a breeding pair with a juvenile. These sightings were reported to the Whooping Crane Hotline so that the ECCC can monitor the migration.

Whooping cranes are spotted feeding in Saskatchewan during the spring and fall migrations every year. The whooping crane is listed as an endangered species under the Species at Risk Act.

### Joint Coastal Operation to Protect Piping Plover – Atlantic Region

The Piping Plover is listed as endangered under SARA. Piping plovers nest above the normal high-water mark on exposed sandy or gravel beaches. On the Atlantic coast they often nest in association with small cobble and other small beach debris on ocean beaches, sand spits, or barrier beaches. They also forage for food there. Wildlife enforcement in New Brunswick received numerous complaints from the public regarding high volumes of motorized vehicles on beaches throughout the province. Part of ECCC's strategy to mitigate the vehicle traffic is to increase enforcement presence on New Brunswick's beaches by working with provincial partners.

In July 2017, building on the success from previous years, wildlife enforcement officers in New Brunswick partnered with the provincial Department of Justice and Public Safety (DJPS) and organized a coastal blitz during peak nesting season. Over the course of two days, officers patrolled the Acadian Peninsula beaches by boat and identified ATV's and trucks in sensitive habitat areas that would not normally have been easily accessible by land. Officers recorded video and photo evidence of vehicle operators from the patrol boat and tasked their land based patrol units with intercepting violators as they attempted to leave the beach. Through this joint initiative, over \$3200 in fines (13 tickets) and 20 warnings were issued by the province under the federal *Fisheries Act, Motor Vehicle Act, Off Road Vehicle Act, and Trespass Act*.

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## Case Study: The Science-based Whale Review

In November 2016, the Government of Canada announced a \$1.5 billion investment in a national Oceans Protection Plan to improve marine safety and protect Canada's marine environment, including addressing threats to marine mammals in Canadian waters. As part of this initiative, DFO conducted a science-based review of the effectiveness of the current management and recovery actions for three at-risk whale populations: the North Atlantic Right Whale, the Southern Resident Killer Whale and the St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga.

The review took place from January to April 2017 and resulted in three science reports summarizing achievements to date on implementing management and recovery actions for the three whale populations, and an assessment of the overall effectiveness of these actions in abating threats to recovery. The reports also aimed to identify how recovery could be better promoted by accelerating the implementation of actions not yet underway, by identifying new actions if needed, and by providing guidance on their relative priority for promoting recovery.

From June to September 2017 the Government of Canada engaged stakeholders, Indigenous communities, and the general public on the review. While DFO has worked with Indigenous groups, stakeholders, and industry for many years to identify recovery actions for these endangered whale populations, this engagement process focused on the timely and efficient implementation of priority management actions.



Results from the science-based whale review, in addition to the feedback received during the engagement, will inform further discussions and implementation planning for enhanced recovery efforts for these whale populations. To learn more, visit the DFO website at [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/whalereview-revuebaleine/index-eng.html](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/whalereview-revuebaleine/index-eng.html).

## 8. Consultation and governance

### 8.1. ENGAGEMENT ON SARA POLICIES

ECCC published a suite of draft policies on SARA for public consultation, which ended on March 31, 2017. Following the public consultation period, engagement has continued with groups such as the Species at Risk Advisory Committee (SARAC), First Nations Advisory Committee on Species at Risk (FNACSAR), various Indigenous groups and organizations, provinces and territories, and other interested parties. The draft policies include:

- Policy on Critical Habitat Protection on Non-federal Lands;
- Policy on Protecting Critical Habitat with Conservation Agreements under Section 11 of the *Species at Risk Act*;
- Policy on Survival and Recovery;
- Policy Regarding the Identification of Anthropogenic Structures as Critical Habitat under the Federal *Species at Risk Act*;
- Approach to the Identification of Critical Habitat under the *Species at Risk Act* when Habitat Loss and Degradation is not Believed to be a Significant Threat to the Survival or Recovery of the Species;
- *Species at Risk Act* Permitting Policy; and
- Listing Policy for Terrestrial Species at Risk.

ECCC received comments from over 115 representatives from provincial and territorial governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, Indigenous groups, and the public. Internal work is ongoing in order to finalize the policies.

### 8.2. SPECIES AT RISK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Species at Risk Advisory Committee (SARAC) of the Environment is a multi-stakeholder advisory body established under section 9(1) of SARA to advise the Minister on the administration of the Act. Before its re-establishment in 2017, the Committee last met in November 2013.

A 2016 Notice of Opportunity on the ECCC Ministerial appointments website and the Species at Risk Public Registry resulted in new membership on SARAC. The Minister appointed 28 members to the Committee from a balanced representation of non-governmental organizations from industry, business, academia, agriculture and environment, and also included Indigenous partners from the Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, in the absence of a current National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk. In April 2017, the new SARAC membership met as a collective for the first time to re-initiate the Committee's activities, where they considered current priorities, reviewed the draft SARA policy suite, and established a work plan, dividing their tasks under the purview of five working groups to realize their goals:

Working Group 1: Multi-species / Multi-stakeholder / Place-based Approach

Working Group 2: Knowledge Plan

Working Group 3: Permitting and Offsets

Working Group 4: "Operationalize" Survival and Recovery Policy

Working Group 5: "Re-engineering" SAR Program

On the last day of their meeting in April, a *Species at Risk Act* Minister's Round Table Meeting as required under s. 127 of the Act, took place, where SARAC had the opportunity to share their perspectives on the protection and recovery of species at risk in Canada, and discuss their experiences and views to date on the implementation of SARA. At this meeting with the Minister, SARAC explored opportunities for working with partners to shift to a multi-species, place-based approach to protection and recovery, opportunities to implement SARA in different ways; and how this Committee and the federal government will find innovative solutions to recover species at risk while supporting economic growth. The Minister stated her appreciation for the ideas and exchanges, confirmed the government's intention to fully implement SARA, and expressed a desire for better access to scientific knowledge, including Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. The Minister, together with the Parliamentary Secretary, recognized that SARAC would play a key role in the species at risk file.

Since April 2017, the SARAC working groups have each held multiple meetings. The results of their first six months of efforts were discussed at a second meeting of SARAC in November 2017, where each working group offered considerations and recommendations for SARAC consensus. Those discussions offered additional perspectives to consider, and the working groups planned a path forward to focus on progressive, incentive-based conservation agreements, resources, and implementation; consider opportunities to enhance existing platforms, data standards, and data sharing; explore how offsetting strategies fit into environmental assessments and habitat banking, and linking to federal, provincial and territorial permitting schemes for an aligned approach; explore ecosystem shifts, competition between ecological needs, persistent limitations, feasibility; and develop a plan to address all of the cross-cutting considerations, priorities and themes between different groups. The working groups continue to explore ways to improve the status of species at risk in Canada through improved SARA implementation and SARAC plans to revisit progress on these conversations at their next face-to-face meeting, to be held in Ottawa in May 2018.

### **8.3. INDIGENOUS GROUPS AND SARA**

Provisions in SARA recognizes that the role of Indigenous peoples in the conservation of wildlife is essential and that Indigenous peoples possess unique traditional knowledge concerning wildlife species. The National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR), composed of 6 representatives of Indigenous peoples of Canada, selected by the Minister based on recommendations from Indigenous organizations that the Minister considers appropriate, was created under section 8.1 of SARA to advise the Minister of the Environment on the administration of the Act and to provide advice and recommendations to the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC).

In 2017, a hybrid process was agreed to, whereby Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Métis National Council (MNC) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) recommended candidates to fill one seat each. The other three NACOSAR seats are to be filled through a Notice of Opportunity (NOO) appointment process. The NOO process launched on April 20, 2017 and closed on June 17, 2017. Engagement sessions were held with the AFN, ITK and MNC on the NOO process, and recommendations for appointment were approved by the Minister in December 2017. A collaborative approach is being taken by AFN, ITK, and MNC to develop the new NACOSAR Terms of Reference. Once the Council is re-established, it will likely build on the recommendations provided by the previous Council in April 2016, and build connections to other existing committees such as the Species at Risk Advisory Committee and the First Nation Advisory Committee on Species at Risk.

In 2017, at the request of the AFN, ECCC has co-developed a new committee under section 9 of the *Species at Risk Act* to engage First Nations in finding solutions to implementing the *Species at Risk Act* on Federal reserve lands and other issues affecting First Nations peoples in Canada. The newly-established First Nation Advisory Committee on Species at Risk (FNAC SAR) is intended to build relationships with our Indigenous partners. ECCC provides funds, by way of an \$870,000 contribution agreement over three years, to the AFN to support the

work of this Committee and will participate in and support its work, as requested. This Committee will support reconciliation with First Nations and provide a forum for advancing discussions around species at risk and conservation on First Nation lands.

Key FNAC SAR accomplishments in 2017 include a draft Terms of Reference for the committee, identification of committee members (initiated in 2017 by the AFN with nine members identified, and expected finalization in early 2018 with confirmation of 12 members), initial FNAC SAR face-to-face meetings (June 2017 and November 2017), and key contributions to Departmental priorities. The FNAC SAR, with input from ECCC, developed an initial critical path and work plan. Priorities include, but are not limited to, case studies focused on socio-economic analysis within SARA, use of traditional knowledge, identification of critical habitat on reserve lands and capacity/resource inventory. Through this section 9 Committee, the AFN also facilitated a constructive call in December, 2017, with the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE) Elders, AFN leaders, select FNAC SAR members and ECCC, about the draft Boreal Caribou Action Plan. The ACCAE and FNAC SAR provided a high level of participation from across the country, as well as substantive comments, flagging issues for future conversation.

### **8.3.1. Engagement with Indigenous Groups**

ECCC met with Indigenous organizations to discuss conservation and stewardship and expressed mutual interests in collaborating on species at risk conservation on reserve lands in 2017. Future collaboration could include focus on engagement capacity, strengthening the SARA consultation process, and further developing collaborative mechanisms for species at risk conservation on reserve lands.

The ECCC and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Coordinating Committee was initiated in 2016, whose purpose is to facilitate a coordinated approach to species at risk conservation on reserve lands by aligning departmental activities related to SARA implementation and land use planning in a manner that respects Indigenous groups' conservation and development priorities on their lands.

### **8.3.2. Bilateral Administrative Agreements**

The federal government has bilateral administrative agreements on species at risk with individual provinces and territories. The agreements set out shared objectives, as well as commitments for how governments will cooperate on species at risk initiatives. Agreements are in place with the governments of Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan, and an agreement with the government of British Columbia is in the process of being renewed. The agreement with Saskatchewan expired in the fall of 2017, and it is currently in the process of being renewed. There is also a Memorandum of Understanding between the federal government and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board that covers the listing process for species at risk in Nunavut, and discussions are being held to develop a similar MOU that covers recovery planning.

### **8.3.3. The National General Status Working Group**

The National General Status Working Group (NGSWG) is composed of representatives from each province and territory, and the federal government. Members of the working group are responsible for completing the general status assessments of species in their jurisdictions, which the group then uses to produce the Wild Species – The General Status of Species in Canada reports required under s.128 of SARA. ECCC is co-chair and coordinator of the NGSWG, and the other co-chair in 2017 was the Government of Northwest Territories.

The NGSWG was established by the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee (CWDC) in order to meet the commitment of monitoring, assessing, and reporting regularly on the status of all wild species, as required under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk. The NGSWG is responsible to the CWDC and ultimately to the CESCC. Activity in 2017 included the finalization of the Wild Species 2015 report which was tabled in Parliament in June 2017. Work was also initiated in preparation of the Wild Species 2020 report.

## REPORTING ON SPECIES IN CANADA TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

In June 2017, the Wild Species 2015 report was completed and tabled in Parliament. This report was prepared by the National General Status Working Group, which is composed of representatives from each of the Canadian provinces and territories and of the three federal agencies whose mandate includes wildlife (Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada). This was a major accomplishment, as the first step in preventing the loss of species is to know which species are in Canada, where they occur and what their status is. Canada is a large country and home to thousands of species.

The aim of the Wild Species reports is to provide an overview of the number and variety of species present in Canada in order to assess their conservation status. In this report, the conservation status of 29 848 species was assessed in Canada among 34 different taxonomic groups: selected macrofungi, macrolichens, bryophytes, vascular plants, sponges, corals, freshwater bivalves, terrestrial and freshwater snails and slugs, spiders, mayflies, dragonflies and damselflies, stoneflies, grasshoppers and relatives, lacewings, beetles, ants, bees, yellowjacket wasps, caddisflies, moths and butterflies, scorpionflies, black flies, mosquitoes, horse flies, bee flies, flower flies, decapods, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. In fact, among species that are critically imperiled, imperiled, vulnerable, apparently secure or secure, 80% of species have a national rank of apparently secure or secure.

However, 1659 species were identified as “may be at risk” in Canada. Of these, 1032 species have only a small part of their range in Canada (10% or less) and 498 are intermediary (from 11% to 74%) of their range in Canada. However, 129 species have 75% or more of their range in Canada, of which 99 species are thought to be endemic to Canada. Reports from the Wild Species series are the main product of an ongoing national program. One of the priorities for the next Wild Species report will be to continue to increase the number and variety of species included for conservation status assessments.

There are still many species remaining to be assessed in Canada, and it is essential to determine what their conservation status is to prevent them from becoming extinct. Another priority will be to continue to reassess the species that were included in the previous Wild Species reports, to detect eventual changes in the conservation statuses of the species. In the future, the Wild Species series will continue to consolidate our knowledge of species in Canada. If you would like to learn more about these reports, please visit the Wild Species page: [www.wildspecies.ca/home](http://www.wildspecies.ca/home).

### 8.4. SPECIES AT RISK REGISTRY

The online Species at Risk Public Registry fulfills the requirement under SARA for the Minister of the Environment to establish a public registry to facilitate access to SARA-related documents. The registry is an important tool for engaging and informing Canadians on species at risk issues. In addition to providing access to documents and information related to SARA, it provides a forum for Canadians to submit comments on SARA-related documents being developed by the Government of Canada.

Section 123 of SARA identifies documents that must be published on the registry, including:

- regulations and orders made under the *Act*;
- agreements entered into under section 10 of the *Act*;
- COSEWIC’s criteria for the classification of wildlife species;
- status reports on wildlife species that COSEWIC has prepared or has received with an application;

- the List of Wildlife Species at Risk;
- codes of practice, national standards or guidelines established under the *Act*;
- agreements and reports filed under section 111 or subsection 113(2) of the *Act*, or notices that these have been filed in court and are available to the public; and
- all reports made under sections 126 and 128 of the *Act*.

Other documents prepared in response to the requirements of SARA include recovery strategies, action plans, management plans and reports on the progress of recovery strategy implementation.

In 2017, 575 documents were published on the registry. These documents include SARA and COSEWIC annual reports, consultation documents, COSEWIC status reports and status appraisal summaries, ministerial response statements, permit explanations and recovery documents. In addition, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, and the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment for British Columbia, released a final report from a jointly-conducted study on the protection of Southern Mountain Caribou and their habitat.

## 9. Further information

To obtain further information or publications—and to submit questions or comments—concerning species at risk programs and activities, please contact any of the following three departments:

Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Public Inquiries Centre  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Fontaine Building  
200 Sacré-Cœur Boulevard  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3  
Telephone: 819-938-3860  
Toll Free: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)  
Email: [ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca)

Parks Canada Agency  
National Office  
30 Victoria Street  
Gatineau QC J8X 0B3  
Canada  
Tel.: 888-773-8888  
TTY: 866-787-6221  
Email: [information@pc.gc.ca](mailto:information@pc.gc.ca)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Communications Branch  
200 Kent Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Station 13228  
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6  
Canada  
Tel.: 613-993-0999  
Fax: 613-990-1866  
Email: [info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

### Public Registry Office

For more information on the Species at Risk Public Registry, and to submit questions or comments on the Public Registry, please contact the following office:

SARA Public Registry Office  
351 St. Joseph Boulevard, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3  
Canada  
Email: [ec.registrelep-sararegistry.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.registrelep-sararegistry.ec@canada.ca)