

# ***Species at Risk Act***

Annual Report to Parliament for 2023



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

**Canada**

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# 1. Introduction

The Species at Risk Act (SARA or the Act)<sup>1</sup>, enacted in 2002, is part of Canada's strategy to protect hundreds of wild plants and animal species from becoming extinct, and to help in their recovery. The Act, among other things, 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 requires the protection of individuals, residences and critical habitats of the wildlife species listed on Schedule 1 as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened. The Act also requires the preparation of recovery documents for all listed wildlife species.

Every year, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) must prepare a report on the administration of the Act during the preceding calendar year, and table it in Parliament. This SARA Annual Report summarizes activities carried out in 2023<sup>2</sup>.

The Minister is responsible for the overall administration of SARA, except insofar as the Act gives responsibility to another “competent” minister (see Figure 1 below). Parks Canada (PC), 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.

**Figure 1. Competent Ministers**



<sup>1</sup> [Section 126 of the Act](#) lists the matters that must be addressed in the report.

<sup>2</sup> Some of the financial information is based on fiscal years (April 1 to March 31) from 2022-2023 or 2023-2024.

## 2. Highlights



- Following years of collaborative conservation actions, one species, the Peregrine Falcon (*anatum/tundrius*), was delisted from Schedule 1 of SARA. Twenty-three new species were added to the list, nineteen of which now have new protections supporting their recovery. In all, eight species had their status changed, three of which, like the iconic Monarch Butterfly, will now also benefit from SARA's protections for Endangered and Threatened species. Another species, the Peary Caribou, following contributions from Northern communities to the recovery planning, had its status on the Schedule 1 changed from Endangered to Threatened.
- In March 2023, Canada and Manitoba signed a three-year conservation agreement to support the conservation and recovery of Boreal Caribou in the province. Through the agreement, Manitoba committed to finalizing and beginning implementation of range plans in the province by 2025 and undertaking measures such as caribou population and habitat monitoring.
- By signing the *Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation* in November 2023, Canada committed to supporting British Columbia and First Nations to collaboratively advance the recovery and protection of the Spotted Owl. Parties will be engaging in a series of significant efforts, such as a SARA-compliant action plan, protecting and conserving habitat, improving breeding capacity, and facilitating the release of captive Spotted Owls to restore the Endangered species' population.
- Signed in October 2023, the *Canada-Nova Scotia Nature Agreement* commits parties to conserving and recovering species at risk and migratory birds, as well as protecting and restoring their critical and core habitats. The Agreement set out target outcomes and commitments to improving biodiversity and effectively addressing species of conservation concern.
- Parks Canada is delivering recovery action on the ground in collaboration with Indigenous communities, partners and stakeholders. In 2023, Parks Canada made demonstrable progress and is on track to complete 85% of recovery measures identified in current multi-species action plans. As well, Parks Canada advanced the development of 14 multi-species action plans that consider opportunities for Indigenous-led conservation, landscape-scale conservation, ecological connectivity and climate-smart actions.
- ECCC, Parks Canada and DFO continued to deliver on commitments aligned with recommendations made by the Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD) to address gaps in SARA implementation and remain actively involved in an evaluation that supported the management of species at risk activities.

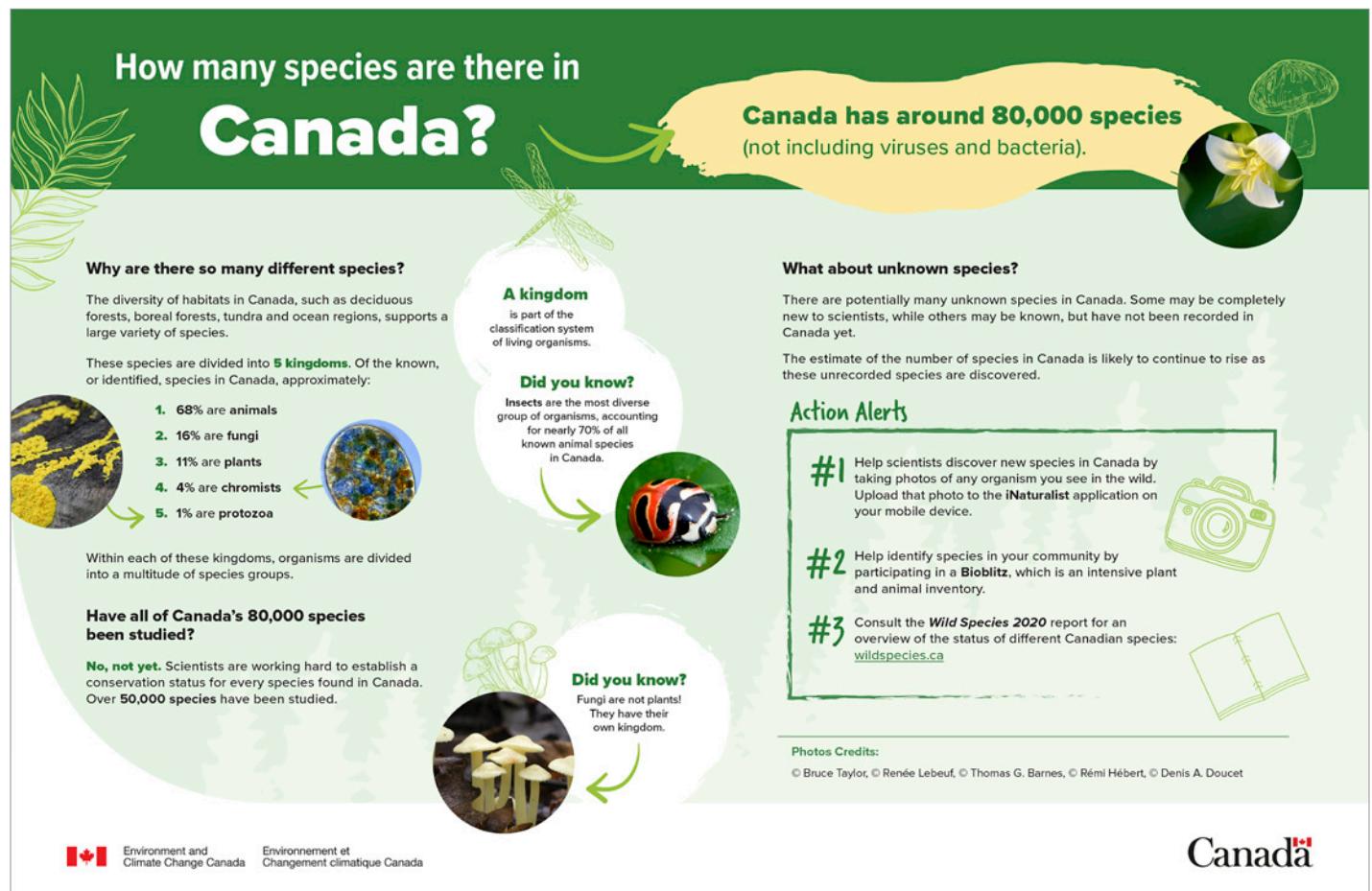
### 3. Wildlife Species at Risk in Canada

There are tens of thousands of species in Canada (see figure 2). In order to protect them we first have to find them, identify them, gather knowledge about their state, and understand what is key to their survival as well as the challenges they face.

Under section 128 of SARA, the Minister must prepare a general report on the status of wildlife species every five years: the Wild Species report has been published since 2000 when 1,670 species were included. Over 50,000 species were included in [Wild Species 2020](#). This information helps [Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada](#) (COSEWIC), an independent advisory panel which meets twice a year to assess the status of wildlife species at risk of extinction, determine which species to assess.



Figure 2. Wild Species in Canada



## 3.1 The Schedule 1 Listing Process

The [listing process](#) refers to amendments to Schedule 1 of SARA through the addition, the reclassification, or the removal of a species. It includes: (1) the assessment of species by COSEWIC; (2) the Minister's response to those assessments; and (3) the decision of the Governor in Council (GIC), on the recommendation of the Minister, on whether or not to add, remove, or reclassify a species or refer the matter back to COSEWIC for further information or consideration.



Eastern Whip-poor-will  
Photo: Elora Grahame

### 3.1.1 Assessment of Species at Risk

SARA separates the assessment process from the listing decisions, ensuring that scientists and Indigenous knowledge holders provide independent assessments and that decisions affecting Canadians are made by elected officials who are accountable for those decisions. COSEWIC provides the assessments and supporting evidence annually to the Minister.

In October 2023, COSEWIC submitted 43 wildlife species assessments to the Minister. Of these 43, 31 were for wildlife species that COSEWIC had re-examined. The status of the majority (94%) was reassessed at the same or lower level of risk.

#### Changes in the Status of Wildlife Species at Risk Indicator

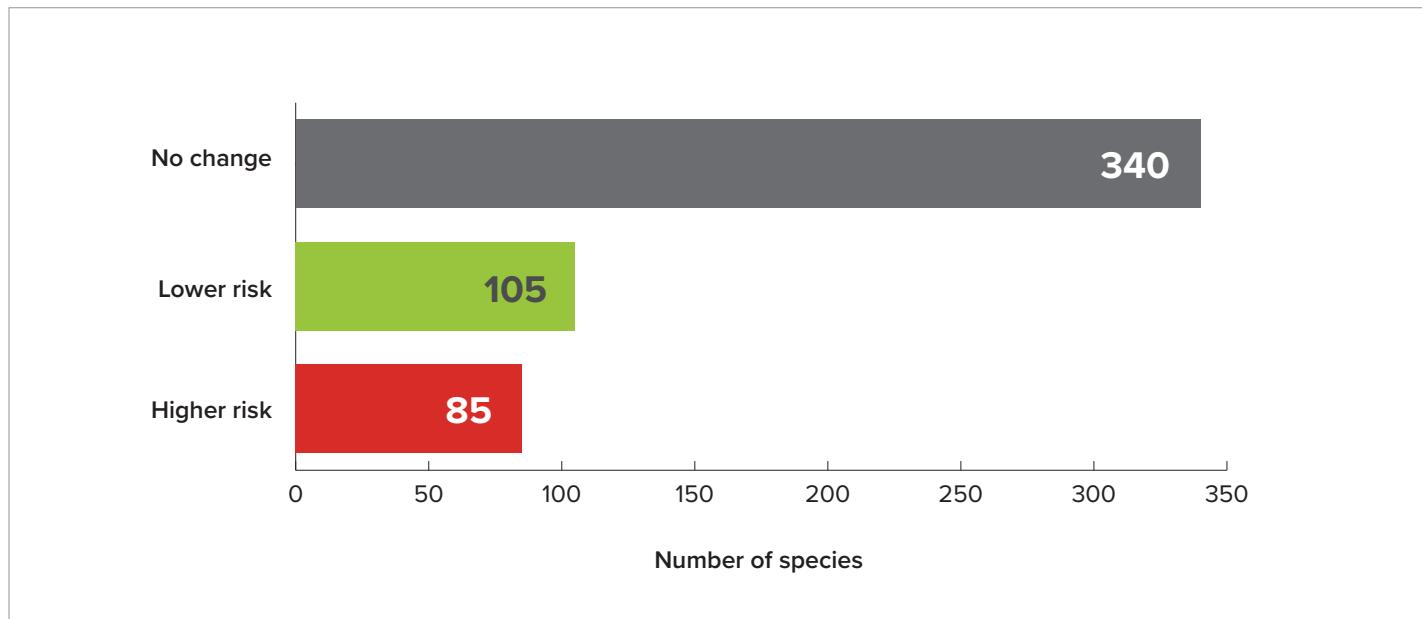
Wildlife species previously designated as being at risk are reassessed, usually after 10 years, to determine if there is a change in status. The [Changes in the status of wildlife species at risk indicator](#) reports on changes in designations for wildlife species assessed by the COSEWIC. COSEWIC submitted these to the Minister in October 2023.

In December 2022 and May 2023, 31 wildlife species were reassessed, of which 27 had no change in their status. Of the four wildlife species that had a change in status, three were classified to a lower risk category and one was classified to a higher risk category:

- The Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster changed in status from Threatened to Endangered as a result of climate change and changes in the quality and quantity of habitat available.
- The Eastern Whip-poor-will changed in status from Threatened to Special concern as a result of a change in methodology for estimating abundance.
- The Foothill Sedge changed in status from Endangered to Special concern as a result of changes in how assessment criteria were applied.
- The Small-flowered Sand-verbena changed in status from Endangered to Special concern as a result of new subpopulations being discovered and improved monitoring.

COSEWIC has reassessed 530 wildlife species at risk since starting assessments in 1982.

Figure 3. Changes in the risk of disappearance of wildlife species from Canada, May 2023



**Note:** In this analysis, wildlife species refers to a species, subspecies or a genetically or geographically distinct population. Wildlife species disappearance may refer to extinction or extirpation (an extirpated species no longer occurs in the wild in Canada). Lower risk consists of species reassessed as no longer at risk as well as species in a lower risk category compared to the previous assessment.

**Source:** Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, May 2023

Wildlife species may take a long time to recover, and some wildlife species are naturally rare in Canada. A change in status may occur only after significant biological change (for example, increases in abundance, population size or geographical range) has been detected. For these reasons, relatively few wildlife species should be expected to show changes in risk level when reassessed. Changes in risk level can be a result of improved information rather than actual changes in the condition of the wildlife species. Improved information is more likely to lead to an improvement in the status of a wildlife species rather than to a decline in status.<sup>3</sup>

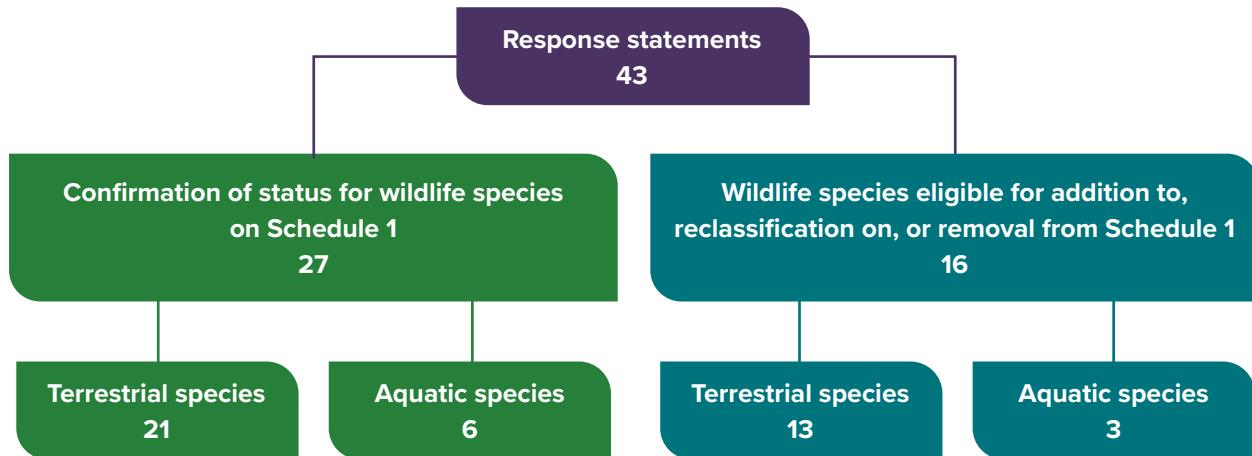
### 3.1.2 Minister's Response to COSEWIC Assessments



The Minister of the Environment takes COSEWIC's assessments as recommendations, and has 90 days to issue a response statement indicating how he or she intends to respond to the assessment, and to provide timelines for action to the extent possible. Forty-three response statements were provided in December 2023 for the COSEWIC assessments received in October 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Moore A, Cyr A, Findlay S (2016) Do changes in COSEWIC status reflect changes in species' biological status. Report to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), 10pp.

Figure 4. Response statements to COSEWIC assessments, December 2023



### 3.1.3 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 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 GIC on amending Schedule 1 of SARA.

In 2023, ECCC carried out consultations for a total of 13 species for which status assessments had been received from COSEWIC as part of the [Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act: Terrestrial Species December 2023](#) [Batch 21]:

- Eastern Red Bat
- Hoary Bat
- Silver-haired Bat
- California Sword Fern
- Coastal Manroot
- Scaly Fringe Lichen
- Riverine Clubtail
- Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster
- Half-moon Hairstreak (Okanagan-Similkameen population)
- Foothill Sedge
- Small-flowered Sand-verbena
- Eastern Whip-poor-will
- Great Blue Heron

In 2023, DFO conducted consultations for ten aquatic species that were assessed as “at risk” by COSEWIC and eligible for addition to Schedule 1:

- Shortfin Mako (Atlantic population)
- Eastern Sand Darter (West Lake population)
- Silver Lamprey (Saskatchewan – Nelson River populations)
- Sockeye Salmon (Sakinaw population)
- Chinook Salmon (Okanagan population)
- Ringed Seal
- Lumpfish
- Harbour Porpoise (Northwest Atlantic population)
- Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic – Baffin Bay population)
- Grey Whale (Atlantic population)

To help finalize listing advice, DFO also carried out consultation check-ins for 23 aquatic species for which consultations previously took place regarding their possible addition to Schedule 1 of SARA. This ensured that stakeholders and other interested parties had an opportunity to confirm their previous positions or offer new information.

### 3.1.4 Listing of Species at Risk

Three listing orders were published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II in 2023:

- [Order Amending Schedule 1 to the Species at Risk Act: SOR/2023-16](#) for Peary Caribou and 12 other terrestrial species (February 15, 2023);
- [Order Amending Schedule 1 to the Species at Risk Act: SOR/2023-17](#) for Peregrine Falcon anatum/tundrius subspecies and 16 other terrestrial species (February 15, 2023);
- [Order Amending Schedule 1 to the Species at Risk Act: SOR/2023-263](#) for Monarch and two other terrestrial species (December 20, 2023).

Table 1. Species added to Schedule 1 in 2023

Special concern	Threatened	Endangered	Extirpated	Delisted	Total
<b>+ 4 Species</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Bumble Bee</li> <li>Yellow Scarab Hunter Wasp</li> <li>Harris's Sparrow</li> <li>Western Bumble Bee (<i>mckayi</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>+ 5 Species</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fern-leaved Yellow False Foxglove</li> <li>Smooth Yellow False Foxglove</li> <li>Silky Beach Pea</li> <li>Smoker's Lung Lichen</li> <li>Western Bumble Bee (<i>Occidentalis</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>+ 14 Species</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dalton's Moss</li> <li>Carey's Small Limestone Moss</li> <li>Drooping-leaved Beard-moss</li> <li>Hairy Paintbrush</li> <li>Dwarf Hesperochiron</li> <li>Columbia Quillwort</li> <li>Hairy Valerian</li> <li>Downy Yellow False Foxglove</li> <li>Striped Whitelip</li> <li>Mottled Duskywing (Boreal population)</li> <li>Mottled Duskywing (Great Lakes Plains population)</li> <li>Nine-spotted Lady Beetle</li> <li>Nuttall's Sheep Moth</li> <li>Oregon Branded Skipper</li> </ul>	<b>No Species Added</b>	<b>- 1 Species</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peregrine Falcon</li> </ul>	<b>23 Species</b>

The orders also down-listed five species to a lower risk category and up-listed three species to a higher risk category.

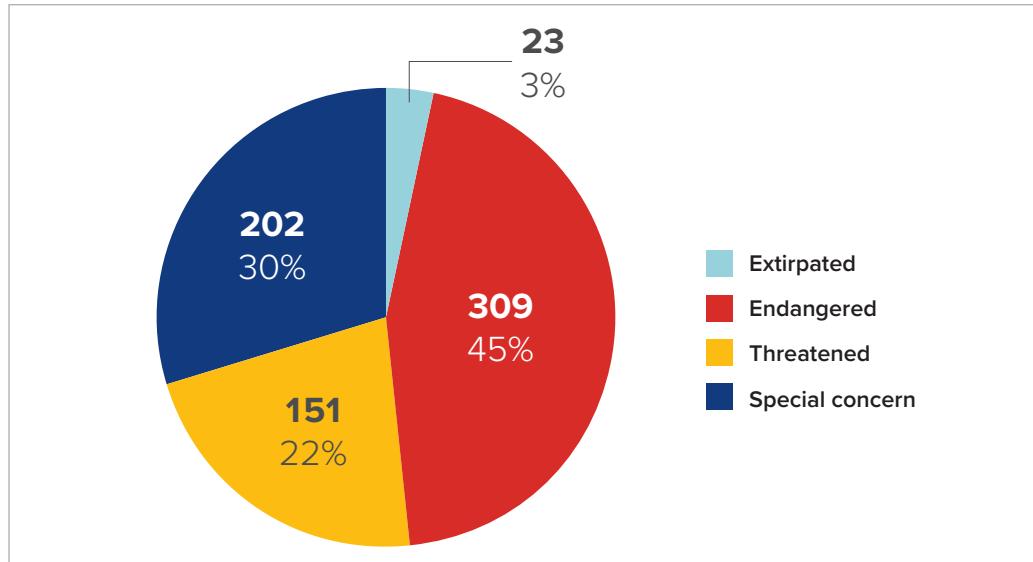
Table 2. SARA species that changed categories in 2023

Down-listed species				
From Endangered to Special concern	From Endangered to Threatened	From Threatened to Special concern		
				
Greater Short-horned Lizard ( <i>Phrynosoma hernandesi</i> ) Photo: Shelley Pruss	Peary Caribou ( <i>Rangifer tarandus pearyi</i> )	Goldenseal ( <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> ) Photo: Paul Catling	Common Nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles minor</i> )	Olive-sided Flycatcher ( <i>Contopus cooperi</i> )
Up-listed species				
From Special concern to Endangered	From Special concern to Threatened			
			Monarch	Blue Ash ( <i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i> ) Photo: Sean Fox
				Western Yellow-bellied Racer ( <i>Coluber constrictor</i> ) Photo: University College of the Cariboo

### 3.2 Status of Species at Risk

As of December 31, 2023, Schedule 1 listed a total of 662 species.

Figure 5. Number of species on Schedule 1 by risk status as of December 31, 2023



## 4. Monitoring

Monitoring of wildlife species provides information on the distribution, abundance, and population trends of species, which are also key parameters in the COSEWIC assessment process. Monitoring provides the scientific foundation for all aspects of the species at risk program, from assessment and recovery planning, to implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of conservation actions.

ECCC runs and manages many monitoring programs specifically focused on species at risk. Some of these programs concentrate on describing critical habitat, such as quantifying occupancy, abundance, productivity, and/or breeding evidence at important breeding or foraging sites and/or habitats. Other programs develop environmental DNA (eDNA) survey methods to support monitoring of Canadian populations; provide status and trend information for low density or locally distributed species that are not otherwise monitored by large-scale standardized surveys; describe threats to populations; or assess the impact of management activities on species at risk and their habitats. These programs are designed to address specific knowledge gaps that are necessary to complete recovery documents or to support species at risk program needs.



Burrowing Owl

### In Focus: Ecological Impact of Wood Bison



Wood Bison  
Photo: Troy Ellsworth

In 2023, ECCC led a collaborative monitoring project to evaluate the ecological impact of re-introduced Wood Bison, a species at risk, on remnant Beringian grasslands in the Yukon. The Aishihik and Kluane areas are interspersed with small, ancient grasslands that are home to many rare plant species. Wood Bison were recently reintroduced into this region to help restore their populations.

First Nations and territorial biologists raised concerns around the potential effects of bison grazing in these sensitive areas, which could harm the plants. To understand whether these rare plants need extra protection, an experiment was set up to monitor the health of plants within areas fenced to exclude bison, and areas where bison were allowed to roam and graze. Results from this collaborative monitoring project are being used to implement and inform the national species recovery strategy, identify critical habitat, and inform local Aishihik herd management. This project also shows how species recovery can often be complex because actions to benefit one species might have negative impacts on other species.

ECCC manages and coordinates national scale monitoring programs for all species of migratory birds in Canada, as well as regional programs for other selected wildlife species at risk. This includes the [North American Breeding Bird Survey](#), which provides the foundation for monitoring the status of most species of land birds across Canada and the US. Data from this survey are instrumental in identifying major population declines in forest birds, grassland birds, and aerial insectivores, and contribute to many COSEWIC status assessments. The survey provides important data and information to all aspects of the SARA cycle, from assessment to recovery planning to monitoring effectiveness of conservation actions.

Breeding Bird Atlases also contribute to assessment and conservation of species at risk by providing detailed information on the distribution and abundance of all bird species in a region. In 2023, Breeding Bird Atlases were active in Newfoundland and Ontario, engaging hundreds of volunteers. Data from these atlases are made publicly available through the [NatureCounts](#) data platform hosted by Birds Canada.

Parks Canada monitors various ecosystems indicators and species at risk in the places it administers. In 2023, Parks Canada continued to monitor progress towards completing actions and achieving site-based population and distribution objectives that are described in Parks Canada multi-species action plans. Parks Canada made demonstrable progress and is on track to complete 85% of recovery measures identified in current multi-species action plans. Examples of monitoring projects that took place in 2023:

- The continued monitoring of nesting Burrowing Owl pairs and successfully fledged young on Prairie Dog colonies in Grasslands National Park. This monitoring measures the progress towards achieving a site-based population and distribution objective of maintaining 20 – 40 pairs nesting on Prairie Dog colonies within the park. In 2023, there were over 40 pairs, exceeding this objective.
- [Radiotelemetry tracking of five Gray Ratsnakes](#) allowed Thousand Islands National Park to locate a new hibernaculum (shelter) within the park that is now protected and will be further monitored. Valuable species movement and habitat use data was collected through weekly tracking of Gray Ratsnakes beginning in spring 2022 and came to a successful end following transmitter removal in 2023.



Gray Ratsnake

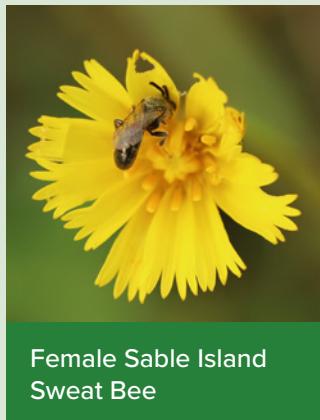
## In Focus: Collaborative Species at Risk Research and Monitoring in Sable Island National Park Reserve

Sable Island has been separated from mainland Canada for over 10,000 years. Many species, including the endemic Sable Island Sweat Bee, have adapted to this rugged oceanic dune environment. Parks Canada, in consultation with Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMKNO), Sipeknekatik First Nation and Millbrook First Nation, developed a Recovery Strategy and Action Plan for this little-known Threatened species that focuses on filling key knowledge gaps to ensure its protection for the future.

Sable Island National Park Reserve is part of the unceded, traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, and in collaboration with Mi'kmaq Earth Keepers, Parks Canada developed a research and monitoring program for this native pollinator, using a Two-Eyed Seeing approach.

This tiny species is difficult to study, but with the help of Mi'kmaq Earth Keepers and researchers from Brock University, Sable Island Sweat Bee nests were found at several locations on the island, and data collected revealed important clues about their social structure and nesting biology.

This collaboration facilitates an invaluable opportunity for growth, including re-establishing connections to land, growing relationships, and working towards a collaborative approach to stewardship on this special island in the Atlantic.



Female Sable Island Sweat Bee



Mik'maq Earth Keepers set up research plots



Bee's nests marked with washers

In 2023, DFO advanced ongoing research and monitoring projects for SARA-listed and COSEWIC-assessed species. Species at risk monitoring in DFO regions continues, where feasible, on a priority basis.

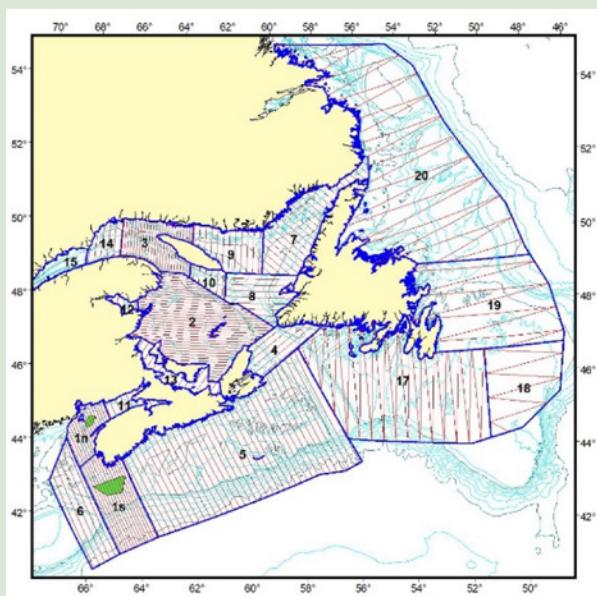
In 2023, funding to DFO was renewed to continue to address human-induced threats to three species of endangered whale: the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW), the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) and the St. Lawrence Beluga (SLEB). For the last six years, including 2023, DFO Science has carried out a multi-species systematic survey of eastern Canadian waters annually, with a focus on the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW). The survey includes 20 strata in eastern Canadian waters and the Scotian Shelf, and areas around Newfoundland are covered on alternate years. In 2023, DFO Science surveyed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the areas around Newfoundland. There were up to three planes flying at peak times, completing the systematic survey and supporting the dynamic fisheries management measures in the area that are implemented to protect NARW from entanglement and vessel strike. In 2023, DFO completed 487 flights for a total of 1,294 hours and 49 minutes of surveillance, resulting in a total of 224 sighting events (289 whales including duplicates).



North Atlantic Right Whale

## In Focus: New Technology Expands Knowledge of Whales in the Atlantic

There are approximately 336 NARWs in the world. DFO leads the [identification of individual NARW in Canadian waters](#) and in 2023, 138 individuals were first identified from images collected by aerial surveillance.



Map: Systematic aerial surveillance plan for eastern Canadian multi-species survey flown annually.



Photos: Close-up of gliders and glider deployment from CCG Perley

Credit: DFO Science Whale Acoustic Slocum Program team

In addition to aerial surveillance, DFO monitors NARW using acoustic technology, which includes both fixed and moving platforms. In 2023, DFO had a total of nine fixed buoys specially equipped with hydrophones in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, one more than was deployed in 2022. Together, these made a total of 2018 NARW detections in near real-time. DFO also launched a new program using mobile autonomous underwater platforms called gliders, to listen for whales. This glider program completed four missions in eastern Canadian waters in 2023.

In 2023, in addition to NARW surveillance, DFO led research and monitoring activities directed at better understanding the threats to recovery of SLEB and SRKW. Notably, a national peer review meeting was held to review the 2022 population size and trends of SLEB, with the population estimated at 1,850 individuals, almost twice what was previously estimated in 2012. This increase is due to improved methods for estimating population size, which has also allowed for better understanding of population trends by age and sex.

## 5. Protection and Recovery Actions for Species at Risk

Once listed, measures to protect and recover the wildlife species are implemented. 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. Implementation reports are also required under SARA to provide information on the progress made toward achieving objectives set out in a species' recovery strategy or management plan or the progress made toward implementing the measures proposed in an action plan.

ECCC, Parks Canada and DFO continued to deliver on commitments aligned with [recommendations made by the Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development](#) (CESD) to address gaps in SARA implementation and remain actively involved in an evaluation that supported the management of species at risk activities.

Parks Canada is delivering recovery action on the ground in collaboration with Indigenous communities, partners and stakeholders. In 2023, Parks Canada made demonstrable progress and is on track to complete 85% of recovery measures identified in current multi-species action plans. As well, Parks Canada advanced the development of 14 multi-species action plans that consider opportunities for Indigenous-led conservation, landscape-scale conservation, ecological connectivity and climate-smart actions.



American Badger

**Table 3. Number of published reports in 2023**

Lead competent department	Recovery strategies		Action plans		Management plans		Implementation reports
	Final	Proposed	Final	Proposed	Final	Proposed	
Environment and Climate Change Canada	7	7	Nil	Nil	13	4	Nil
Parks Canada	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	2	Nil	Nil	1	2	4	15

## 5.1 Recovery Strategies



Recovery strategies for species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened have the following steps:

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

Table 4. Species for which recovery strategies were posted in 2023

Lead competent department	Final recovery strategies	Proposed recovery strategies	Implementation reports
Environment and Climate Change Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marbled Murrelet<sup>a, b, c</sup></li><li>• Chimney Swift<sup>a, c</sup></li><li>• Proud Gobelet</li><li>• American Burying Beetle</li><li>• American Badger (<i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Western population)<sup>c</sup></li><li>• American Badger (<i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Eastern population)<sup>a, b, c</sup></li><li>• Black-foam Lichen<sup>a, b, c</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spotted Owl (<i>caurina</i> subspecies)<sup>a, b, c</sup></li><li>• Louisiana Waterthrush<sup>a, c</sup></li><li>• Jefferson Salamander<sup>b, c</sup></li><li>• Unisexual <i>Ambystoma</i>, Jefferson Salamander (dependent population)<sup>c</sup></li><li>• Small-mouthed Salamander<sup>b, c</sup></li><li>• Unisexual <i>Ambystoma</i>, Small-mouthed Salamander (dependent population)<sup>c</sup></li><li>• Nuttall's Sheep Moth<sup>c</sup></li></ul>	Nil
Parks Canada	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black-footed Ferret</li><li>• Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus</li></ul>

Lead competent department	Final recovery strategies	Proposed recovery strategies	Implementation reports
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic Mud-Piddock<sup>c</sup></li> <li>• White Sturgeon (Upper Fraser River, Upper Columbia River, Upper Kootenay River, and Nchako River populations) (amendment)<sup>a, b, c</sup></li> </ul>	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastrange Sculpin (Cultus population)</li> <li>• Lake Chubsucker<sup>a, b</sup></li> <li>• Northern Madtom</li> <li>• Misty Lake Lentic Threespine Stickleback</li> <li>• Misty Lake Lotic Threespine Stickleback</li> <li>• North Pacific Right Whale</li> <li>• Speckled Dace</li> <li>• White Sturgeon (Upper Fraser River, Upper Columbia River, Upper Kootenay River, and Nchako River populations)<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>

a. Parks Canada is also a competent department for this species, as it occurs in Parks Canada-administered lands/waters and contributed to the development of the recovery strategy.

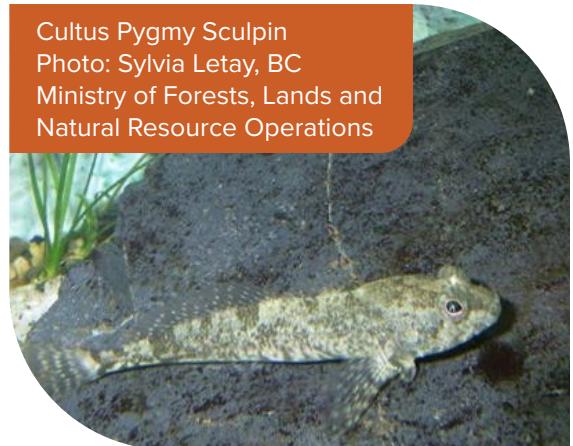
b. Amended recovery strategy and/or action plan

c. Recovery strategies in which critical habitat was identified

Competent departments continue to work on producing documents on time and are working to publish overdue recovery strategies and their implementation reports. ECCC has 23 species with an overdue recovery strategy and 218 overdue implementation reports on active recovery strategies. Parks Canada has no species with an overdue recovery strategy and 2 overdue implementation reports on recovery strategies. DFO has 7 species with an overdue recovery strategy and 16 species with overdue implementation reports on recovery strategies.

## 5.2 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 may include identification of the species' critical habitat, to the extent possible, based on the best available information, and consistent with the recovery strategy.



**Table 5. Species for which action plans were posted in 2023**

Lead competent department	Final action plans	Proposed action plans	Implementation reports <sup>b</sup>
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Nil	Nil	Nil
Parks Canada	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waterton Lakes National Park of Canada and Bar U Ranch National Historic Site of Canada</li><li>• Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada</li><li>• Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada</li></ul>
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• White Sturgeon (Upper Fraser River, Upper Columbia River, Upper Kootenay River, and Nechako River populations)<sup>a</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultus Pygmy Sculpin (also known as the Coastrange Sculpin, Cultus population) (Recovery strategy-action plan)</li></ul>

a. Parks Canada is also a competent department for this species, as it occurs in Parks Canada-administered lands/waters and contributed to the development of the action plan.

b. Parks Canada develops site-specific population and distribution objectives for the portion of the species that occurs within the National Park. These objectives align with the national population and distribution objectives for the species, as defined in a recovery strategy.

Competent departments continue to work on producing documents on time and are working to publish overdue action plans and their implementation reports. ECCC has 199 species with an overdue action plan and 21 overdue implementation reports on action plans. Parks Canada has no species with an overdue action plan or associated implementation reports. DFO has 19 species with an overdue action plan and 10 overdue implementation reports on action plans.

In 2023, Parks Canada advanced the development of 14 multi-species action plans that consider opportunities for Indigenous-led conservation, landscape-scale conservation, ecological connectivity and climate-smart actions.

## 5.3 Management Plans

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.



Red-necked Phalarope  
Photo: © Jukka Jantunen

Table 6. Species for which management plans were posted in 2023

Lead competent department	Final management plans	Proposed management plans	Implementation reports
Environment and Climate Change Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red-necked Phalarope<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Dune Tachinid Fly<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Yukon Podistera</li> <li>• Haida Gwaii Slug<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Magnum Mantleslug<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Pygmy Slug</li> <li>• Sheathed Slug</li> <li>• Buffalograss</li> <li>• Baikal Sedge<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Spiked Saxifrage</li> <li>• Yellow-banded Bumble Bee<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Collared Pika<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Dwarf Lake Iris<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prairie Skink</li> <li>• Western Tiger Salamander (Prairie / Boreal population)<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Eastern Wood-peewee<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Pitcher's Thistle<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	Nil
Parks Canada	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapleleaf (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence population)</li> <li>• Rainbow</li> <li>• Eastern Pondmussel<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapleleaf (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence population)</li> <li>• Rainbow</li> <li>• Northern Sunfish (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence population)<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Eastern Pondmussel<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Silver Lamprey (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence population)<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern North Pacific Grey Whale<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Kiyi (Upper Great Lakes population)<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Longspine Thornyhead</li> <li>• Rougheye Rockfish Type I</li> <li>• Rougheye Rockfish Type II</li> <li>• Sea Otter<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Westslope Cutthroat Trout (BC population)<sup>a</sup></li> <li>• Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>

a. Parks Canada is also a competent department for this species, as it occurs in Parks Canada-administered lands/waters and contributed to the development of the management plan.

Competent departments continue to work on producing documents on time and are working to publish overdue management plans and their implementation reports. ECCC has 11 species with an overdue management plan and 59 overdue implementation reports on management plans. Parks Canada has no species with an overdue management plan or associated implementation reports. DFO has 9 species with an overdue management plan and 15 species with overdue implementation reports on management plans.

## 5.4 Species at Risk Population Trends Indicator

In Canada, some species that have experienced population declines or are naturally rare, are now in danger of disappearing. Recovery or management actions are put in place to protect wildlife species that are identified as being at risk. Ensuring the successful recovery or management of a species at risk can be a long-term process involving various measures to stop or reverse the decline in the species and improve the likelihood that it will persist in the wild.

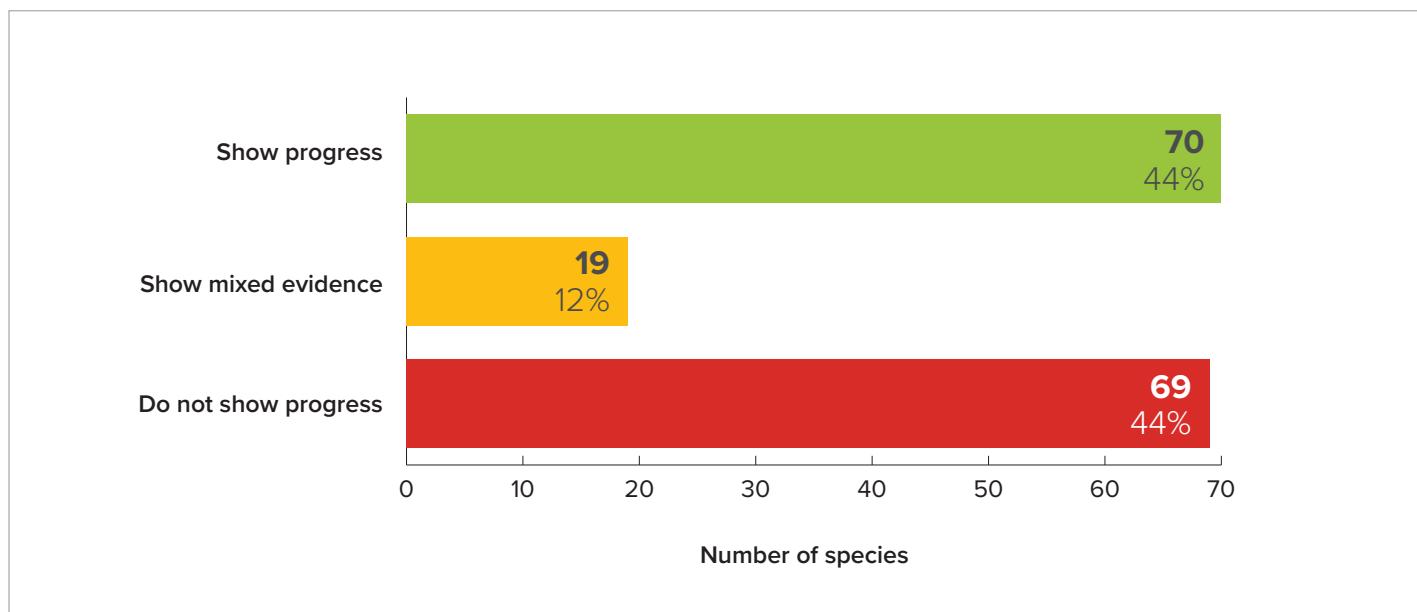
The [Species at risk population trends indicator](#) provides a preliminary assessment of whether the trends for population (how many) and distribution (how they are spread out) of listed species at risk are consistent with the recovery or management objectives.

In order to assess whether species at risk show progress towards their population and distribution objectives, two conditions must be met:

- A recovery strategy or management plan has been posted on the Species at risk public registry
- The species has been reassessed by COSEWIC or there is a report on the progress on recovery

As of May 2023, 279 species meet both conditions for assessment. For 12 of the 279 species, recovery is considered not feasible; for 17 species, there are no population and distribution objectives in their recovery strategy or management plan; and for 92 species, there is insufficient information in their reassessment or report on the progress on recovery to determine population and distribution trends. Therefore, the results are based on the remaining 158 species.

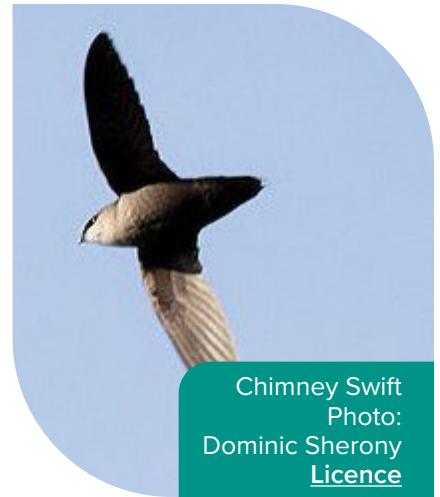
**Figure 6. Progress of species at risk towards their population and distribution objectives, May 2023**



**Notes:** "Mixed evidence" means that some information suggests improving trends, but there is also some evidence of decline.

**Source:** Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada, and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada Secretariat (2023).

Results should be interpreted with caution as it can take many years for species to show progress towards their population and distribution objectives. Results should not be interpreted as a measure of success with regard to the recovery of species or maintaining species until sufficient time has passed to allow species to respond to actions taken and to collect enough information for assessment.



Chimney Swift  
Photo:  
Dominic Sherony  
[Licence](#)

## 5.5 Critical Habitat Descriptions

Critical habitat is habitat necessary to support the population and distribution objectives which are set out to assist the recovery and/or survival of listed species in Canada and established in the recovery strategy or action plan. In 2023, eight critical habitat descriptions were published in the *Canada Gazette*. The federal government is responsible for critical habitat protection for all species on federal lands.

Table 7. Notices for descriptions of critical habitat published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I in 2023

Competent department	Species for which notices were published
Environment and Climate Change Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>American Badger (<i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Western population) (Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area and Vaseux Lake Bird Sanctuary)</li><li>American Badger (<i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Eastern population) (Columbia National Wildlife Area)</li><li>Bank Swallow (Basin Head Marine Protected Area)<sup>a</sup></li><li>Caribou (Boreal population) (Edéhzhé National Wildlife Area)</li><li>Marbled Murrelet (Shoal Harbour Bird Sanctuary)</li></ul>
Parks Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Black-foam Lichen (Kejimkujik National Park)</li><li>American Badger (<i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Western and Eastern populations) (Kootenay National Park)</li><li>Chimney Swift (Riding Mountain National Park)</li><li>Golden-winged Warbler (Thousand Islands National Park)</li><li>Hoptree Borer (Point Pelee National Park)</li></ul>
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Nil

a. DFO contributed to the publication of the description of critical habitat.

In 2023, ECCC published the [Progress report on steps taken for protection of critical habitat for species at risk in Canada \(April 2022 to September 2022\)](#), the [Progress report on steps taken for protection of critical habitat for species at risk in Canada \(October 2022 to March 2023\)](#), and the [Progress report on steps taken for protection of critical habitat for species at risk in Canada \(April 2023 to September 2023\)](#). In addition, for the first time in 2023, [Critical Habitat for Species at Risk National Dataset](#) were published, displaying the geographic areas within which critical habitat for terrestrial species at risk occurs in Canada. This publication allowed interactive maps for critical habitat of 274 species at risk publicly accessible. The interpretation of this geospatial information is available in recovery documents found on the Species at Risk Public Registry.

DFO's [aquatic species at risk map](#) is available online to assist in project planning to protect critical habitat.

## 5.6 Recovery Activities

Action plans and management plans propose various actions that can contribute to recovering, restoring, and enhancing ecosystems and species at risk across Canada. Many of these actions are taken or funded by ECCC, Parks Canada, and DFO. The following are highlights of projects that took place or continued in 2023.

In 2023-2024, Parks Canada implemented recovery measures in and around the lands and waters it administers, including research, restoration, and public outreach and education activities. Parks Canada invested in the delivery of over 23 projects in partnership with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private citizens and Indigenous communities, including the following:

- Recovery of at-risk reptiles in and around three national parks in central and eastern Ontario by:
  - Building on the success of previous work focused on reducing road mortality of reptiles at Bruce Peninsula National Park
  - Expanding the geographic scope of recovery actions across boundaries to include Georgian Bay Islands National Park and Thousand Islands National Park
  - Working with partners across central and eastern Ontario to identify road mortality “hot spots” and plan mitigations across the landscape
  - Helping to develop the [Ontario Turtle Conservation Network](#) under the leadership of the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre
  - Protecting vulnerable nests and incubating eggs with partners and citizen scientists
  - Educating the public about threats to reptiles through various exhibits and website content
- Recovery of the Black-tailed Prairie Dog at Grasslands National Park by:
  - Managing the threat of sylvatic plague, which is one of the primary threats to the Black-tailed Prairie Dog population
  - Working with government and academic partners to increase knowledge around disease monitoring and treatment options
  - Improving habitat for the Black-tailed Prairie Dog and other species at risk through a variety of approaches including invasive alien species management



Black-tailed Prairie Dog

## In Focus: Bank Swallow Hotels



Photos: A pair of Bank Swallows and Bank Swallow nesting boxes

The Bank Swallow is a species with a very precarious status in Canada and is designated as threatened under SARA. Over the last 40 years, Canadian population has fallen by as much as 98%.

In light of this, in the fall of 2023, Parks Canada's Quebec Waterways Field Unit (QWFU) in collaboration with *Développement ornithologique Argenteuil*, and with support from the *Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec* through the *Fonds d'Action Saint-Laurent (FASL) Affluents* maritime program, and the Government of Quebec completed the installation of its first "Bank Swallow" project at the Carillon Canal National Historic Site, in Saint-André-d'Argenteuil.

This project aims to establish a new colony of Bank Swallows along the Ottawa River by installing wooden nesting boxes. With the help of the QWFU's technical services team and environmental experts, the team installed several boxes on the jetty downstream of the Carillon lock. Each box contains artificial nesting tunnels, allowing a colony to establish itself. Thanks to these additions, Parks Canada is now part of a network of nearly 700 nesting boxes and nesting structures located in the Argenteuil Regional County Municipality and the greater Argenteuil area.

### 5.6.1 Habitat Stewardship Program

The Government of Canada's [Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk](#) (HSP) was established in 2000. This application-based funding program is administered by ECCC (for terrestrial species) and DFO (for aquatic species) and is implemented on a regional basis. Projects funded by HSP are submitted by Canadians and contribute directly to the recovery objectives and population goals of species at risk and prevent others from becoming a conservation concern. The most complete information available for the HSP at the end of 2023 is for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

#### **HSP for Terrestrial Species at Risk**

In 2022-2023, ECCC funded \$2,527,696 in 49 new projects and added \$836,000 to 18 previously approved projects. Funds already approved in past years for 53 other projects brings the HSP contribution to a total of \$6,408,570 for the fiscal year's 120 projects.

These projects, involving 98 unique funding recipients contributed to the recovery efforts of terrestrial species at risk across Canada. These projects allowed the protection of 72,369 hectares of land, and the improvement of 13,399 hectares of land and 18 kilometers of shoreline. They leveraged additional funds to a total of \$13,811,582 (cash and in-kind) to HSP's \$6.4M.

### **The HSP for Aquatic Species at Risk**

In 2022-2023, nearly \$4 million dollars were invested in new and previously approved multi-year projects under the [HSP for aquatic species at risk](#). The investments provided support to a variety of stewardship efforts across Canada, and resulted notably in 2051 outreach events, 462 habitat/species surveys/inventories, improvement of habitat, and engagement and participation of 726 partners.

## **HSP Project: Population Assessment of the American Eel (*Anguilla Rostrata*) in Rennie's River Watershed**



Photos: Biometric sampling, Yellow-phase American Eel in revival chamber, and American Eel with tag implanted in lip

Sikumiut Environmental Management Limited (SEM) conducted a two-year study to investigate the three freshwater-inhabiting life phases of American Eel in an urban, human-influenced watershed. The project aimed to determine a population estimate of American Eel in the Rennie's River watershed, St. John's, NL, and to gain insight on migration timing and use of various habitats in order to better protect them.

Through support and partnership with the Fluvarium, data gained through the project was used to enhance the Fluvarium's American Eel exhibit, thereby increasing local stewardship and supporting public awareness and education. The project has yielded a population estimate for Yellow Phase Eels in the watershed, as well as valuable information such as the activity of eels during various weather events, moon cycles, and varying water parameters. SEM also conducted Silver Phase Eel migration monitoring, resulting in a count of Silver Phase Eels migrating out of the freshwater towards the ocean in Quidi Vidi Gut as well as parameters surrounding their migrations.

## 5.6.2 Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk

Established in 2004, the [Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk](#) (AFSAR) is an application-based program delivered by ECCC (for terrestrial species) and DFO (for aquatic species). AFSAR focuses on strengthening capacity in Indigenous communities to lead the stewardship of species at risk in support of broader SARA implementation.

### Aboriginal Fund for Terrestrial Species at Risk

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the [AFSAR terrestrial stream](#):

- provided \$2.49 million to 27 new and 31 previously approved multi-year Indigenous-led projects; (58 in total)
- leveraged additional funds exceeding \$3.2 million (cash and in kind);
- supported 58 Indigenous governments, communities, and organizations as recipients.

### Aboriginal Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the AFSAR aquatic stream:

- provided over \$4 million towards 34 new projects and 18 previously approved multi-year projects (52 total);
- leveraged additional funds exceeding \$2.5 million (cash and in-kind);
- involved 46 Indigenous organizations and communities as recipients.

## AFSAR Project: Bigmouth Buffalo and Lake Sturgeon Species

Sagkeeng First Nation conducted a study that focused on both the Bigmouth Buffalo and Lake Sturgeon. The project itself, which spanned an eleven-month period, included collaborative fieldwork with Indigenous Knowledge (IK) holders, local staff, aquatic and social scientists, as well as education and training activities. A co-produced report of the project incorporated both IK and science.

A key project outcome was the improved knowledge of both species biology and population characteristics that facilitated management of both species and achieved population distribution objectives over the long-term. The project had a positive impact on the efforts of conservation and recovery of both the Bigmouth Buffalo and the Lake Sturgeon species and their respective habitats and led to the creation of inventories and databases that incorporated habitat specific data. Results of the multi-species and multi-partner project also included increased capacity for Sagkeeng First Nation to lead in stewardship and to contribute to broader SARA implementation, the application and integration of IK into stewardship activities and conservation planning, as well as enhanced collaboration with multiple parties.

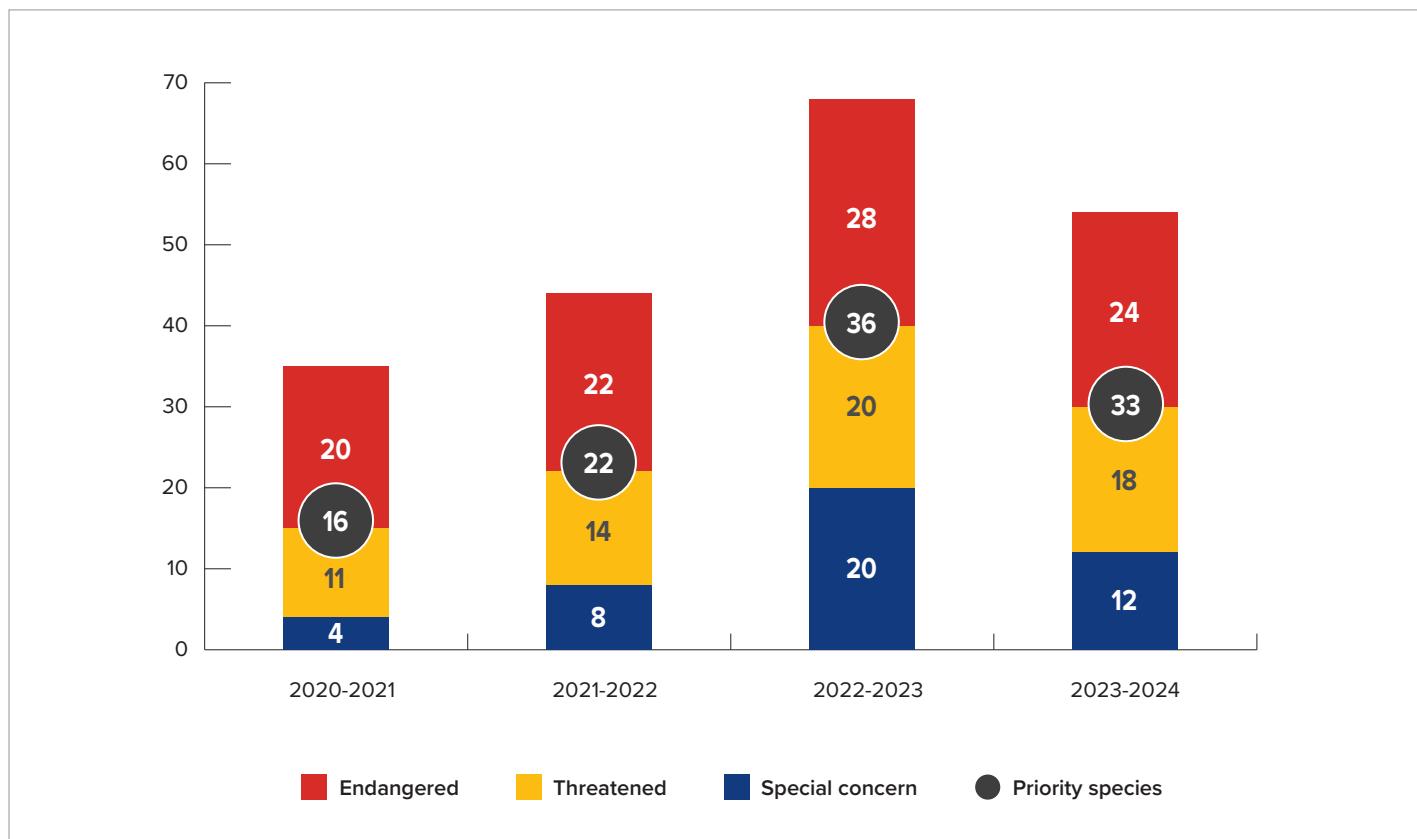
### 5.6.3 Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program

Established in 2020, the [Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program](#) (CHIP) is a directed funding program administered by ECCC. The CHIP encourages federal government departments, agencies, and Crown corporations (other than ECCC, Parks Canada, and DFO) to lead projects aimed at the recovery of species at risk through the conservation and restoration of their habitat on federally administered or owned lands.

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the CHIP:

- provided \$592,000 towards 11 projects (8 multi-year, 3 new)
- leveraged additional funds of \$709,915 (cash and in-kind)
- involved six federal departments and two Crown corporations and their numerous partners (e.g. Indigenous communities, environmental organizations, academics, provincial government, and private landowners)
- supported recovery and conservation efforts for 54 SARA-listed species including 33 CHIP Priority Species (61%)

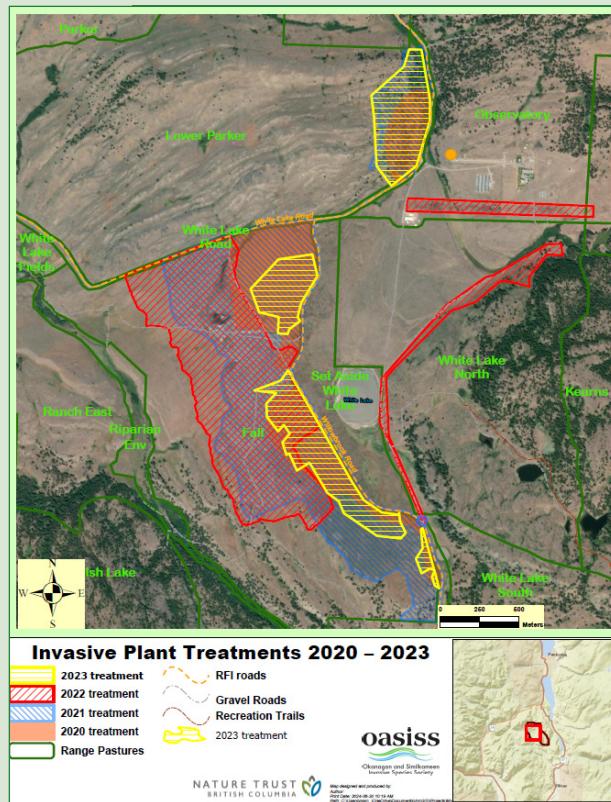
**Figure 7. Number of SARA-listed species targeted per year by status, and number of Priority Species targeted by the CHIP each year**



Overall, funded projects delivered on objectives that include critical habitat identification through surveys, critical habitat restoration through the removal of invasive species, the establishment of a SAR field seed bank, SAR population surveys, native species reintroduction and monitoring, community outreach, and research to increase scientific knowledge pertaining to SAR and their critical habitat.

## CHIP Project: Implementing Invasive Plant Control within Designated Critical Habitat in the White Lake Basin, South Okanagan

The White Lake Basin, located in the South Okanagan, British Columbia, provides habitat for over 30 federally-listed species at risk. The proliferation of invasive plant species is a major threat to the habitat of many of those species. To mitigate the impacts of this threat, the National Research Council has been leading a long-term ecosystem management project to recover species at risk and their critical habitat in this location through the removal of invasive species. The CHIP has been funding this successful habitat restoration project since 2020.



### Targeted species:

- Sage Thrasher
- Western Yellow-bellied Racer
- Long-billed curlew
- Western Harvest Mouse
- Western Tiger Salamander
- Desert Nightsnake
- Great Basin Spadefoot
- Half-moon Hairstreak
- American Badger
- Rusty Cord Moss
- Pallid Bat
- Alkaline Wing-nerved Moss
- Western Rattlesnake
- Showy Phlox

### Accomplishments in 2023

- Invasive species surveys conducted covered a total estimated area of 256 hectares (ha) of SAR habitat, with invasive plants covering an area of 134 ha.
- Treatments to remove invasive species were completed on a total area of 60 ha of shrub-steppe grassland.

## 5.7 Pan-Canadian Approach for Terrestrial Species at Risk

ECCC and Parks Canada have continued to work closely with provinces and territories, Indigenous peoples, and other partners to address priority terrestrial species, places and sectors through the implementation of the [Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada](#) (Pan-Canadian Approach).

### Priority Places

In 2023-2024, the federal government invested up to \$26.6 million in 145 Priority Places projects across the country, with additional funding leveraged via matching funds from partners. The projects are being carried out in 12 Priority Places identified collaboratively by federal and provincial and territorial governments and in 17 Community Nominated Priority Places that were identified through open calls for applications.

Example projects supporting the Priority Places objectives in 2023-2024 include:

- Conducting habitat management activities by installing infrastructure (e.g., fencing and signage) to mitigate road mortality of species at risk amphibians and reptiles and undertaking a coordinated approach to outreach and communications between partners and the general public in the Long Point Walsingham Forest Priority Place in Ontario.
- The securement and permanent protection of private land containing habitat, and in particular Critical habitat, for multiple species at risk within the Kespukwitk/Southwest Nova Scotia Priority Place. The project also supports targeted outreach and education with private landowners with habitat for species at risk on their properties.
- Native prairie habitat enhancement and securement through beneficial management practices implementation, continued delivery of species at risk habitat securement and continued species at risk baseline and monitoring surveys to guide range management plan development and beneficial management practices implementation in the Southwest Manitoba Priority Place.

Parks Canada is responsible for protecting and managing the ecosystems found in national parks. National parks overlap with six Priority Places allowing for collaboration with partners to maximize landscape-scale conservation benefits. Parks Canada is also a key partner in at least five Community-Nominated Priority Place initiatives across the country.

### Priority Species

In 2023-2024, Priority Species Directed Funding invested \$37M in 34 projects across Canada to support on-the ground management actions.

These projects, involving 23 unique funding recipients, significantly contributed to the recovery efforts of the six priority species identified through the Pan-Canadian Approach. These species include Barren-ground Caribou (including the Dolphin and Union population), Peary Caribou, Boreal Caribou, Southern Mountain Caribou, Wood Bison and Greater Sage-Grouse. The projects engaged 29 Indigenous partners, dismantled 144 kilometers of roads, and restored 125 hectares of crucial habitat for priority species. Furthermore, they led to the development of 27 area-based conservation plans to be implemented in collaboration with provincial, territorial and Indigenous partners. Eight of the projects also fostered collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, as part of the fulfilment of existing (or amended) or new (in Manitoba) Conservation Agreements for Boreal and Southern Mountain Caribou under SARA, establishing shared commitments for conservation (see Section 9, Conservation agreements sub-section, for additional details).



All six of the Priority Species occur across Parks Canada-administered places. Parks Canada continues to advance work that support the recovery of priority species by:

- continuing work to support the recovery of Wood Bison including developing better tests for bovine tuberculosis, combining vaccines for bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, genetic testing for hybridization between Wood and Plains Bison, and biobanking for Wood Bison reproductive material.
- initiating construction on the Jasper conservation breeding facility for Southern Mountain Caribou and collaborating closely with Indigenous partners on various recovery activities including forming an Indigenous Advisory Committee in Jasper National Park.
- restoring 160 hectares of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat through removal or mitigation of anthropogenic structures (e.g. powerlines, building, fences) for a total of approximately 793 hectares of restored habitat since 2016.

### **Indigenous Partnerships Initiative**

ECCC's Indigenous Partnerships Initiative (IPI) amplifies First Nation, Inuit and Métis partners leadership in conservation of species at risk and culturally significant species in a way that reflects Indigenous peoples' unique priorities, rights and knowledge in the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Approach and SARA. Note that the latest period for which complete information is available for IPI is 2022-2023. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, IPI provided \$20 million to 47 new and 24 previously approved multi-year projects (71 total); leveraged additional funds that exceeded \$6 million (cash and in-kind); and supported 71 Indigenous governments, communities, and organizations as recipients.

### **Priority Sectors**

The Priority Sectors Initiative aims to advance the protection and recovery of species at risk by enhancing beneficial practices and addressing threats by mitigating, minimizing or avoiding harmful practices. The initiative is collaborating with partners and stakeholders across the agriculture, forest and urban development sectors to develop Strategic Conservation Frameworks for Species at Risk. During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, drafting of the Strategic Conservation Framework with the agriculture sector was completed, with significant progress made in advancing conservation action planning with the forest and urban development sectors.

## **5.8 The Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk**

The [Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk](#) (CNFASAR) supports the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk. Since its inception, CNFASAR has supported 57 projects, with an additional 37 ongoing.

In 2023 the CNFASAR was renewed, providing an additional \$39.5 million between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2026, to continue address priority places and threats to aquatic species at risk. With this funding, the CNFASAR will support an additional 56 projects across Canada. Since 2018, this funding has supported projects that benefit over 150 populations of aquatic species at risk associated with nine priority places, and two marine threats (fishing interactions [includes entanglement and bycatch of aquatic species at risk] or physical and acoustic disturbance [includes vessel collisions and marine noise]).

In 2023, under a four-year agreement signed in 2022, DFO and Fort Folly First Nation continued their work in the Petkoutkoyek (Petitcodiac) watershed. This collaborative restoration project focuses on the release of mature adult Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon (listed under SARA as Endangered) into their native rivers to drive recovery. This project includes monitoring and assessment studies, the collection of parr and smolt for rearing in marine sites or the Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility, release of adults and fry in the Petkoutkoyek, and research on increasing marine survival. These works support the end goal of re-establishing a self-sustaining Atlantic Salmon population in the Bay of Fundy.

## In Focus: Improving Freshwater Habitat in the Ausable Bayfield Watersheds in Ontario

The goal of this four-year project, led by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABC), is to implement remediation activities that repair downstream aquatic habitat for species at risk in Gully Creek and the Bayfield River, in collaboration with landowners and community members. This project includes planting trees and cover crops on six sites, in partnership with different landowners. Trees and crops have been planted on over 899 hectares to slow surface water runoff, reduce soil erosion and increase uptake of water. Outreach and education are another key aspect of the project. In 2023, ABC provided five educational programs to classrooms. They also met with community members to review the North Gullies and Old Ausable Channel Management Plans to identify future management actions to be undertaken to benefit local species at risk (Redside Dace, Lake Chubsucker and Pugnose Shiner).



Photo to the left: Old Ausable Channel before bank restoration. The photo on the right is the same site where visible benefits are perceived after restoration – reduced erosion, reduced runoff, sediment accumulation allowing habitat for native species.

Parks Canada collaborates with partners working on several projects funded by the CNFASAR that take place in or adjacent to Parks Canada-administered places. For example, Banff, Jasper and Waterton Lakes National Parks work closely with Alberta Environment and Parks to coordinate recovery actions for three native trout species at risk: Westslope Cutthroat Trout (Alberta population), Athabasca Rainbow Trout and Bull Trout (Saskatchewan-Nelson rivers population). Alberta's Native Trout Recovery program is a four-year fish conservation initiative aimed at recovering populations of native trout in the Eastern Slopes of Alberta.

## 5.8.1 Framework for Aquatic Species at Risk Conservation

As part of the Nature Legacy Initiative, DFO is developing a [Framework for Aquatic Species at Risk Conservation](#) to identify opportunities where use of multi-species approaches may improve the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk listed under SARA as Endangered, Threatened or Special concern.

Following the first phase of engagement on key concepts related to multi-species approaches in 2022, DFO completed a second phase of engagement in 2023 on a discussion paper, provided as an intermediary product in the development of the Framework. In total, external engagement in 2023 consisted of 13 nationally and regionally hosted engagement sessions, including public sessions and targeted engagement with Indigenous peoples and provinces and territories. Through this engagement, hundreds of comments were received from organizations and individuals.

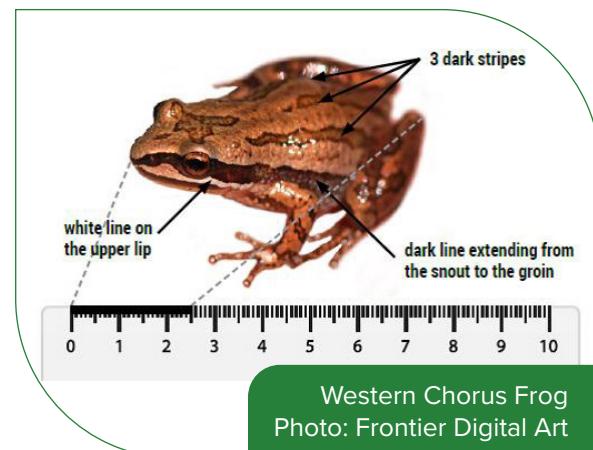
DFO plans to incorporate feedback from engagement and finalize the Framework for publication in 2024. The development process for the Framework is helping to guide ongoing transition towards the use of more multi-species approaches to protect and recover aquatic species at risk at DFO.

# 6. Orders to Protect Species at Risk

## 6.1 Emergency Orders and Imminent Threat Assessments

Under section 80(1) of SARA, the GIC may, on the recommendation of the competent Minister, make an emergency order to provide for the protection of a listed wildlife species. In 2023, the Minister of ECCC formed the opinion that the [Small White Lady's-slipper was not facing imminent threat](#) to its survival or recovery and that the [Spotted Owl was facing imminent threat](#) to its survival and recovery. The Minister was then required under subsection 80(2) of SARA to recommend the making of an emergency order to protect the Spotted Owl to the GIC. The Government of Canada declined the making of an emergency order in favour of supporting a collaborative approach with the Government of British Columbia and First Nations.

In addition, the Government of Canada posted the draft *Policy on Assessing Imminent Threats under Sections 29 and 80 of the Species at Risk Act – terrestrial species on the Species at Risk Public Registry* for a 60-day public comment period.



### Existing Emergency Orders

There are currently three emergency orders for two species in Canada. The Western Chorus Frog (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence–Canadian Shield Population) is a Threatened species listed under Schedule 1 of SARA. To protect this species, two SARA emergency orders exist, setting out prohibitions to prevent the degradation or loss of habitat needed for the Western Chorus Frog's recovery. The emergency orders outline certain prohibited activities. In 2014, The Minister also made an Emergency Order for the Protection of the Greater Sage-Grouse, to address the imminent threats to the survival or recovery of the species, which remains in effect. A violation of the provisions of these emergency orders constitutes an offence under section 97(1)(b) of SARA.

## 6.2 Protection Orders for Critical Habitat

Two ministerial orders to protect critical habitat were issued in 2023 by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans for the following two aquatic species at risk:

- [Silver Shiner](#)
- [Atlantic Mud-Piddock](#)

ECCC published a statement in July 2023 which described how the Minister formed the opinion that some portions of Boreal Caribou critical habitat on non-federal lands in Ontario, and almost all portions in Quebec, are not effectively protected under provincial laws. The statement also concludes that individuals of the species are protected in both provinces. The statement further explains how the Minister recommended the making of an order to protect all unprotected portions of Boreal Caribou critical habitat on non-federal lands in Quebec and Ontario, and that the Government of Canada declined the making of a protection order, at this time. The Government of Canada will continue to pursue a collaborative approach with the governments of Ontario and Quebec, including implementing the conservation agreement with Ontario and encouraging Quebec to release its Caribou Strategy. The Government of Canada will also continue to seek leadership and involvement of Indigenous peoples in the development of Boreal Caribou protection and recovery measures.

## 7. Permits under SARA

Permits are required for activities that may affect species listed on Schedule 1 of SARA as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened by contravening the Act's prohibitions or protection orders, wherever these apply. The competent minister may enter into an agreement or issue a permit under sections 73 or 74 of SARA for the following:

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



Basking Shark  
Photo: Chris Gotschalk

Table 8. Permits, agreements and licences issued or enabled under SARA in 2023

Competent department	SARA permits and agreements (s.73)	Licences, permits, and other documents under other Acts that act as SARA permits (s. 74) <sup>a</sup>	Grand total
Environment and Climate Change Canada	70	311	381
Parks Canada	13	14	27
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	218	22,312	22,530
Total	301	22,637	22,938

a) Before issuing these licences, competent departments must ensure that the requirements of SARA section 73(2) to section 73(6.1) are met, and that section 73(7) is complied with after the licence is issued.

ECCC issued 70 permits under section 73 to allow for activities affecting over 55 species, including reptiles, amphibians, birds, vascular plants, arthropods, molluscs and mammals.

**Of the 70 permits\* issued:**

- 20 allow for scientific research related to the conservation of a species
- 24 allow for activities benefiting a species or required to enhance its chance of survival in the wild
- 40 allow for activities incidentally affecting a species

Eight of these permits were issued for activities carried out in an area affected by an emergency protection order.

\* The total number of permits per type is greater than 70 because 14 permits covered more than one purpose.

ECCC also issued 311 SARA-compliant permits affecting, or with the potential to affect, Threatened and Endangered migratory bird species under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

Parks Canada issued a total of 27 permits, 14 of which were SARA-compliant permits issued under the *Canada National Parks Act*.

**Of the 27 permits issued:**

- 11 were for scientific research related to the conservation of a species
- 2 were for activities benefiting a species or required to enhance its chance of survival in the wild
- 13 were for activities incidentally affecting a species
- 1 was for activities that benefited one species and incidentally affected a different species

DFO issued a total of 218 permits under section 73 of SARA in 2023.

**Of these 218 permits:**

- 56 were for scientific research related to the conservation of an aquatic species
- 34 were for other activities that benefit the species or enhance its chance of survival in the wild (for example, monitoring surveys or marine mammal rescue)
- 128 were for activities that incidentally affected the listed species (including accidental capture while undertaking research on other non-listed species, or fish or mussel relocation during construction activities)

DFO also issues SARA-compliant permits, licences, and authorizations under various regulations made under the *Fisheries Act*. DFO issued a total of 22,312 licences under the *Fisheries Act* that also acted as SARA permits. Of these permits:

22,253 were commercial fishing licences under the *Fisheries Act* where incidental catches of White Shark, Basking Shark and Loggerhead Sea Turtles were recognized to be a possibility. Conditions in these fishing licences require mandatory reporting of any species interactions in logbooks, and subsequent release of species back into the water in the manner that causes the least harm. These licences fit under the purpose of SARA section 73(2)(c).

23 fishing licences for experimental, scientific, and educational purposes under section 52 of the *Fishery (General) Regulations*. These licences fit under the purposes of SARA section 73(2)(a) or (c)

18 authorizations under section 38 of the *Marine Mammal Regulations* for disturbances caused in the conduct of beneficial work. These licences fit under the purposes of SARA section 73(a) or (b)

18 authorizations under paragraph 35(2)(b) of the *Fisheries Act* that have the same effect as SARA permits. These permits fit under the purpose of SARA section 73(2)(c).

[Explanations for all SARA permits](#) issued by ECCC, Parks Canada and DFO are posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry. Details regarding delivery of ECCC permits against [ECCC service standards](#) are available online.

## 8. Enforcement

ECCC, Parks Canada, and DFO have federal enforcement programs to protect individual SARA-listed species, their residences and their critical habitat by verifying and securing compliance with SARA and regulations made under SARA. They work jointly and in partnership with Indigenous, provincial, territorial, and international authorities.

In 2023, ECCC's 76 wildlife enforcement officers conducted inspections, investigations, joint operations, and SARA permit verifications across Canada to verify compliance with SARA.

As part of ECCC's SARA-related enforcement activities in 2023, wildlife enforcement officers:

- conducted 410 inspections
- issued seven warnings, three Compliance Orders, and opened 19 new investigations
- initiated three prosecutions
- concluded three prosecutions totalling \$40,000 in penalties



Spiny Softshell Turtle  
Photo: © Scott Gillingwater

### Wildlife enforcement officers: Vigilant on compliance verification

In 2023, wildlife enforcement officers conducted compliance verification of prohibited activities for various SARA-listed species: Western Chorus Frog, Greater Sage-Grouse, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Roseate Tern, Greater Sage-Grouse, Piping Plover, Chimney Swift, Burrowing Owl, Bobolink, Abalone Mollusc, Whitebark Pine, Butternut Trees, Eastern Fox Snake, Spotted Turtle, Queensnake, Blanding's Turtle, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Little Brown Myotis (*myotis lucifugus*) Bats and Peary Caribou.

Parks Canada has approximately 100 operational park wardens dedicated to law enforcement activities in all Parks Canada administered places.

In 2023, a total of 73 law enforcement incidents that relate to the protection of species at risk in protected heritage areas were recorded. Of these, 71 resulted in warnings or charges. Parks Canada law enforcement:

- issued five warnings under SARA
- issued a total of 27 charges and 39 warnings under other associated legislative powers

### Park wardens: Consistent collaboration to protect the Southern Resident Killer Whale

Parks Canada continued efforts with DFO, Transport Canada, ECCC, and other partners, to protect the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW). At Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, law enforcement officers enforced Transport Canada's Interim Order and associated measures as well as DFO Seasonal Based Closures related to the SRKW recovery measures. Park wardens dedicated 621 hours in proactive patrols for the protection of SRKW and 130 hours in response to incidents. Across all departments, there were 128 incidents recorded throughout 2023 that resulted in 11 charges and 127 warnings as it relates to the protection of SRKW.

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. They incorporate SARA enforcement activities alongside their duties under the *Fisheries Act* and other federal statutes and regulations.

In 2023, DFO's fishery officers:

- dedicated over 21,000 hours to patrols, inspections, investigations, court cases, public relations and other duties related to enforcing the prohibitions of SARA
- initiated approximately 227 investigations and spent over 2,000 hours on investigative work related to species at risk
- recorded a total of 84 SARA violations involving species at risk that resulted in fines, seizures, charges, and warnings

#### **Fishery officers: Enforcing and educating**

In order to encourage compliance, fishery officers often use public education as a primary tool. The success of this approach has been highlighted across Canada, especially during last year's North Atlantic Right Whale closures, which had excellent compliance rates. One enforcement success story is the expansion of a program that was originally started in 2016 as an awareness campaign for St. Lawrence Beluga. Quebec fishery officers:

- continued work on the St. Lawrence Beluga, including joint patrols with Parks Canada, aerial monitoring, and setting up information booths at marinas. 126 interventions carried out on 508 individuals, culminated with seven formal notices and four violation citations
- patrolled the area near Anticosti Island for over a week and helped to raise awareness about the North Atlantic Right Whale through discussions with sea excursion companies and during an educational session with a youth camp
- conducted multiple surveillance and awareness patrols for four priority species – Eastern Sand Darter, Copper Redhorse, Northern Sunfish, and Hickorynut. During these awareness patrols, fishery officers met with boaters to inform them about critical periods and locations for these species

Additionally, fishery officer investigations across the country uncovered damage to the habitat of species at risk, resulting in a number of habitat offences and leading to the restoration of, or plans to restore, multiple watersheds.

## **8.1 Prosecutions**

In 2023, ECCC completed three successful prosecutions totaling \$40,000 in fines paid to the Receiver General for Canada. The Court ordered these fines for violations related to the Western Chorus Frog emergency order in Longueuil, Québec. Investigations conducted by ECCC's wildlife enforcement officers revealed unlawful activities in the order area that could harm the species. In three separate cases, companies pled guilty to either: operating heavy machinery; the operation of motor vehicles other than on roads or paved paths; and dumping soil/gravel in the emergency order area.

## 2023 Successful Prosecutions Relate to the Section 80 Emergency Order for the Western Chorus Frog in Longueuil

1. 2023-12-19 - Les Entreprises Antoine Stabile & fils inc. was fined \$25,000 for violating the Species at Risk Act.

An investigation by ECCC wildlife enforcement officers revealed that a company was in violation of the Western Chorus Frog (WCF) Emergency Order in La Prairie, Quebec for operating heavy machinery in the area.



2. 2023-06-30 - A Quebec property management company was fined \$5,000 for violating the Species at Risk Act.

3. 2023-03-27 - Piscines Caravelle SM3 Inc. and Les excavations G.S.R.P. & Frères Inc. were ordered to pay a total fine of \$10,000 for violating the Species at Risk Act.

ECCC wildlife enforcement officers responded to a report of pool installation work in the WCF Emergency Order area and observed an excavator. The companies involved pled guilty to violating the prohibitions and were fined.





Boreal Caribou near Nakina ON  
Photo: © Philip Wiebe

## 9. Agreements and Collaboration

### Nature Agreements

To meet the challenges associated with the biodiversity and climate crisis, the [Nature agreements](#) initiative was launched in 2021 as part of Canada's *Enhanced Nature Legacy* to establish shared priorities and financial commitments in a collaborative manner, from the perspective that collaboration between Canada, provinces, territories, and Indigenous partners is central to protecting a wide array of natural ecosystems.

The first of the nature agreements – the *Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement* – was signed in 2022 at COP 15. In 2023, enhanced monitoring work began to improve information gathered and assessments on species at risk in the territory, as well as work towards the development of territorial species at risk legislation, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples. The Canadian Protected and Conserved Area Database (CPCAD) reported, at the end of 2023, that 21.1% of Yukon was deemed protected areas, with a baseline area of over 480,000 km<sup>2</sup>; since the agreement, an additional 8,400 km<sup>2</sup> has been reported to CPCAD.

In 2023, ECCC's Canada Wildlife Service finalized two nature agreements, in the provinces of Nova Scotia and British Columbia:

- In October 2023, the *Canada-Nova Scotia Nature Agreement* was signed by the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia with the support of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, to accelerate the provincial goal of conserving at least 20% of the total land and water mass in the province by 2030, and to increase the amount of protected and conserved areas in the province by 82,500 hectares by 2026. The Agreement commits to assessing and identifying priority areas with high biodiversity values to inform conservation planning, and to support the identification of priority areas for stewardship, conservation, and protection.
- In November 2023, the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, and the First Nations Leadership Council signed the *British Columbia Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation*. The Framework Agreement commits to protecting at least 30% of terrestrial lands within the province by 2030, including old growth forests and critical habitat for species at risk. The Framework Agreement will also enable restoration of at least 140,000 hectares of wildlife habitat by 2025, and action towards the recovery of species at risk, such as the Spotted Owl and Boreal Caribou. The parties are committed to a distinctions-based approach, recognizing the importance of Indigenous leadership in conservation. Canada and British Columbia will consult and cooperate with First Nations in the identification of protection, conservation, restoration, and recovery measures consistent with commitments under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples.

Nature agreement negotiations are continuing with several other parties.

## Conservation Agreements

The [Agreement for the Conservation and Recovery of the Caribou, Boreal Population in Manitoba](#) between the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba under section 11 of SARA was finalized and published on the Species at Risk Public Registry on March 1, 2023. The Agreement includes commitments to landscape-level planning, including developing and implementing range plans for all nine ranges in the province; caribou population and habitat monitoring; and engagement with Indigenous peoples and stakeholders on the development and implementation of conservation and recovery measures.

Implementation of conservation measures continued throughout 2023 under the ten previously signed section 11 conservation agreements for Boreal Caribou and Southern Mountain Caribou in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon Territory, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Newfoundland and Labrador. These agreements include measures such as: habitat protection, habitat restoration, population management, monitoring, and commitments to develop and implement range plans or similar landscape-level plans.

Two of the conservation agreements for Boreal Caribou expired in 2023:

- The [Agreement for the Conservation of the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population with Cold Lake First Nations](#) expired on March 31, 2023.
- The [Conservation Agreement on the Conservation of Woodland Caribou of the Boreal Population \("Boreal Caribou"\) in Labrador](#) expired on September 10, 2023.

The [Agreement for the conservation of the Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population \("Woodland Caribou"\) in Saskatchewan](#) was amended on December 20, 2023, to extend its term to March 31, 2025. This additional time allows the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan to finalize negotiations for a renewed conservation agreement.

Negotiations for a conservation agreement for Boreal Caribou and Atlantic-Gaspésie Caribou with the Government of Quebec were put on hold pending release of Quebec's *Stratégie pour les caribous forestiers et montagnards* (i.e., a provincial strategy for the management of boreal and Atlantic-Gaspésie caribou).

In 2023, DFO's Pacific region signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of British Columbia under the *2005 Canada-BC Agreement on Species at Risk* to support the recovery of freshwater species at risk in British Columbia.

DFO continues to work with the Cree Nation Government (CNG) under the Conservation Agreement signed in April 2022, pursuant to section 11 of SARA for the conservation of Lake Sturgeon (southern Hudson Bay - James Bay populations), a species of special concern under SARA. The agreement and ongoing efforts recognize the essential role and leadership of the Cree nation for the successful conservation of this species.

Since the signing of the agreement, a working group composed of members of DFO and the CNG has been working on its implementation and the development of the management plan, the final version is expected in 2025.

## 10. Outreach and Education

### Parks Canada: Connecting with the Public in 2023



Welcoming over 22 million visitors annually, Parks Canada has a unique opportunity to connect with the public and raises awareness about species at risk. This is done through various outreach and education programs including the Integrated Compliance and Law Enforcement Planning Process, which focuses on proactive communication with visitors to highlight the connection between their actions and the effect they have on the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitat.

# Snapshot



## Education

Collaborated with education-focused organizations, offering live virtual presentations delivered to classrooms across the country. For example, in collaboration with École en réseau, presentations on St. Lawrence Beluga and Little Brown Myotis reached over 20,000 students and in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and Exploring by the Seat of your Pants, presentations, reaching over 38,000 students were offered on the topic of Woodland Caribou and Gray Ratsnake.

## Media

- Created three blogs about species at risk, along with videos: [The Candid Caribou Project](#), [Studying Habitat to Better Protect Belugas](#), and [Searching for Bull Trout](#). The efforts also include the video “[Whales: Gardeners of the Ocean](#)” which is part of the Climate crew series.
- New media for increased awareness: A data-based animation was created about the Closure of Sainte-Marguerite Bay to protect Belugas. Instagram reels were produced for Bull Trout in Nahanni National Park Reserve, and for Caribou in Ivvavik and Jasper National Parks. Finally, Stories were published on Google Arts and Culture about Whitebark Pine ([Protecting Trees for Future Generations](#)) and Belugas ([The St. Lawrence Beluga and Humans at a Crossroads](#)).



## Boater Education Dock Talks

Hired students to inform boaters on the actions they should take to support the protection and recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whale. These students informed boaters on the regulation concerning the distance from the whales they must maintain. In total they communicated with 601 people through Dock Talks in 2023.

## In Focus: Two Pines in Decline - Conservation and Restoration of Five-Needle Pines

Whitebark Pine and Limber Pine, referred to as five-needle pines, are keystone species in their western, high-elevation forests. Both pine species are in decline and are threatened by a combination of blister rust, Mountain Pine Beetle outbreaks, and historic fire suppression, all of which are aggravated by climate change. To save five-needle pines, seven national parks (Jasper, Yoho, Kootenay, Banff, Waterton Lakes, Mount Revelstoke, and Glacier) have joined forces to plant 119,563 pine seedlings, and through the use of prescribed fire, mechanical thinning and planting, restored 1,433 hectares of habitat.

Interpretive and outreach programs to increase public awareness have been developed including:

- Several art installations featuring Whitebark Pine, including a sculpture at Snowforest Campground
- An exhibit called “What’s the Connection?”, which reached 25,000 people and was featured at Peter Lougheed Provincial Park Kananaskis, Fish Creek Provincial Park Learning Centre Calgary, and at Edmonton International Airport
- Outreach booths, which were run at the Revelstoke High School Sustainability Day and the Revelstoke Whitebark Pine Science and Management Conference, as well as, at locations like the Lake O’hara area, and Kicking Horse Mountain Resort
- Eight Whitebark Pine guided hiking programs
- Whitebark Pine plaques and interpretive signage, which were installed near five trail heads

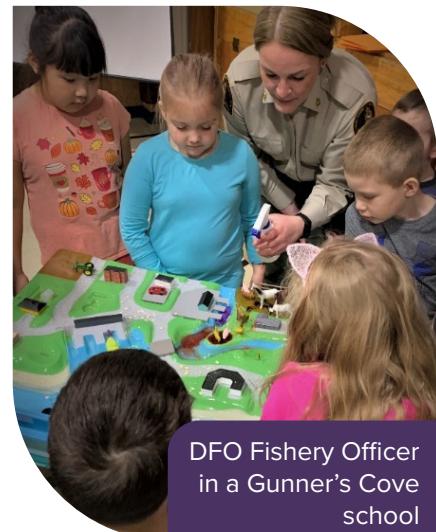


White Pine tree cages

### DFO Raising Public Awareness on Aquatic Species at Risk in 2023

In 2023, DFO formed a National Outreach Working Group (OWG) to serve as a forum to share information, identify opportunities to conduct national activities, and support national consistency in approaches to outreach. The overarching goal of the Working Group is to raise public awareness and increase general knowledge and understanding of aquatic species at risk.

DFO’s National OWG completed an environmental scan of existing outreach activities across DFO regions and created a national repository to improve upon the sharing of information, to address gaps in available materials, and to track and report on outreach activities.



DFO Fishery Officer in a Gunner’s Cove school

DFO continues to develop, deliver, and evaluate outreach activities across Canada.

- In continued partnership with Ingenium Canada through a 2021 memorandum of agreement, DFO's Gulf Region engaged Canadians through outreach and education activities. Recent initiatives included the addition of educational videos and paper-based materials about Wolffish and Winter Skate to the collection of educational materials of aquatic species at risk in Atlantic Canada, and a colouring book of aquatic species at risk in the Gulf Region. An interpretive species at risk exhibit was also launched in June 2023 at Prince Edward Island National Park's Greenwich Interpretation Centre featuring life-sized models of a White Shark, Winter Skate, Wolffish, and a Leatherback Sea Turtle, in addition to five accompanying museum style panels (one for each species and another on SARA). In November 2023, DFO and Ingenium Canada sent educational material packages to approximately 120 anglophone and francophone middle schools across the Gulf Region, to help students develop a better understanding of local aquatic species at risk and what they can do to help protect them.
- DFO in collaboration with Parks Canada, Ocean Wise, and the Royal BC Museum, hosted a meeting in February 2023 for marine educators in Victoria, BC. Meeting attendees represented 18 agencies or organizations, with a shared goal of coordinating efforts to reduce disturbance to at-risk marine mammals through public education, and empowering citizens to undertake threat mitigation measures in alignment with SAR recovery goals. Attending organizations have been pivotal in delivering at-risk marine mammal outreach across BC, raising awareness of disturbance threats, and inspiring behaviour change.



White Shark model



DFO beach clean-up with students in Spaniard's Bay

# Snapshot



## Events

### World Oceans Day

- 2,500 visitors at the Marine Institute, NL
- 40,000 reached via the four-day virtual Facebook event
- Many events across the country



### 2023 Latornell Conservation Symposium exhibit

- Staff provided hands-on interactive national aquatic SAR map, freshwater mussel shells on display and resources to interested visitors.



### Webinars with watershed stakeholders and Indigenous groups on:

- Actions Canadians can take to protect species
- DFO's [projects near water](#) webpage
- How to use the national [aquatic species at risk](#) maps

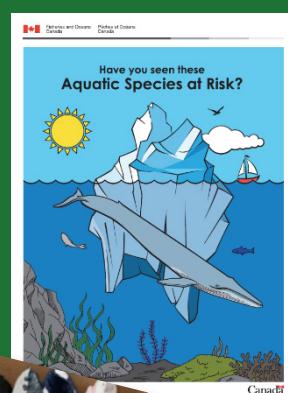


## Education

- Created new materials sent to schools and communities, including 120 middle schools across the Gulf region: activity books, fabric models of species at risk, fact sheets, bilingual puzzles, pencils with message “I protect species at risk”
- Conducted presentations to schools and communities
- Informed the public at event exhibits

## Media

- Seven interviews related to whales in Newfoundland waters and marine mammal protection measures
- Social media plan for Common Lumpfish consultations
- #NLSharks and #SharkWeek campaigns on X social media platform to help people identify shark species
- Reminders sent to the public on X to not to disturb whales, and to share whale and turtle sightings



# 11. Consultation and Governance

## 11.1 Indigenous Advisory Groups

### National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk

As per section 8.1 of the Act, the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) advises the Minister on the administration of the Act and provides advice and recommendations to the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC). While CESCC is not currently formally established, the participating Ministers meet regularly.

On November 1, 2023, NACOSAR wrote to the Minister of the Environment with a number of recommendations to advance work on species at risk, including by building on the work of previous councils, and amplifying Indigenous leadership and perspectives on the administration of the Act, federal decision-making processes, wildlife conservation, and resource management. The NACOSAR voiced its support for the Ministerial priority to halt and reverse biodiversity loss while noting the need for legislative amendments to SARA to better recognize the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*.

At the NACOSAR meeting held November 8-9, 2023, NACOSAR and government participants engaged in a discussion based on the Council's letter, including the importance of ecosystem-based approaches to conservation, addressing the negative impact of SARA on Indigenous peoples, and suggested ways to increase integration of Indigenous approaches across the SARA cycle. At the meeting, Parks Canada staff also gave a presentation on ecological corridors. The presentation outlined that ecological corridors are part of a suite of nature-based solutions to fight climate change and reduce biodiversity loss. Parks Canada also highlighted continued collaboration with partners to advance shared objectives, including the recognition of Indigenous stewardship values as a priority goal of the corridor program.

## 11.2 ECCC's Nature Engagement Model

As part of the Enhanced Nature Legacy, ECCC continued to implement its engagement model, which seeks to strengthen engagement with external partners, respect varied perspectives, and improve coordination on ECCC nature priorities, including SAR.

While the work of the Nature Advisory Committee (NAC) is broader, and currently meetings are focused on implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the committee did provide advice relevant to SARA. Specifically, at the June 1-2, 2023 face-to-face meeting, NAC provided advice to ECCC on advancing federal protection policies for SAR and at NAC's December 7, 2023 meeting, the Committee commented on the role of stewardship in the *Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation*.

In addition, work continued to operationalize three distinctions-based Indigenous Nature Tables, including work on setting of membership, terms of reference and planning for inaugural meetings. The purpose of these co-developed engagement tables is to contribute to the development and provision of strategic advice, recommendations, and innovative solutions on shared nature priorities, including potential species at risk related priorities.

## 11.3 SARA Ministerial Round Table

The Minister's Roundtable (MRT) convened on October 30, 2023, with a focus on ECCC responses to the species at risk audits undertaken by the CESD. Attendees of the MRT, who were also members of NAC, discussed key SAR issues, including addressing backlogs in action plans and recovery strategies, the importance of ecosystem-based approaches to conservation, and collaboration with other sectors and jurisdictions. ECCC committed to streamlining processes, exploring innovative funding mechanisms, and leveraging partnerships to advance species recovery efforts. Additionally, there was a call by MRT attendees for more inclusive and bottom-up approaches to conservation, acknowledging the need for effective communication strategies. Minister Guilbeault expressed gratitude for the contributions of NAC members and affirmed

ECCC's commitment to ongoing collaboration in updating SARA policies. Moving forward, ECCC will continue to engage with the NAC in refining SARA policy frameworks and enhancing communication channels to facilitate meaningful participation from stakeholders.

## 11.4 Species at Risk Public Registry

The online Species at Risk Public Registry fulfills the requirement under SARA for the Minister 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 have been filed in court and are available to the public
- all reports made under sections 126 and 128 of the Act

Other documents prepared in response to the requirements of SARA, including recovery strategies, action plans, management plans and reports on the progress of recovery strategy implementation, are also published on the Public Registry, along with explanations of why agreements or permits under section 73 or 74 of the Act were entered into or issued.

In 2023, 345 documents were published on the Registry, including 143 permit explanations and 42 documents for public consultation. These documents include SARA and COSEWIC annual reports, consultation documents, COSEWIC status reports and status appraisal summaries, ministerial response statements, recovery documents and listing orders.

## 12. Additional 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:

### **Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Public Inquiries Centre

Place Vincent Massey Building  
351 Saint-Joseph Boulevard  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3  
Toll-free: 1-800-668-6767

Email: [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)

### **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

Communications Branch

200 Kent Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Station 13228  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6  
Tel.: 613-993-0999  
Fax: 613-990-1866

Email: [info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

### **Parks Canada**

National Office

30 Victoria Street  
Gatineau, QC J 8X 0B3  
Tel.: 888-773-8888  
TTY: 866-787-6221  
Email: [information@pc.gc.ca](mailto:information@pc.gc.ca)

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

### **SAR Public Registry Office**

351 St. Joseph Boulevard, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3  
Email: [SARRegistry@ec.gc.ca](mailto:SARRegistry@ec.gc.ca)

## 13. Annex

### 13.1 COSEWIC Assessments (Batches 1 to 20)

Table 9. Numbers of species assessed by COSEWIC during the listing process each year to December 2023

Batch (year) of Minister's receipt of assessments	COSEWIC at risk assessments received	Confirmation of current status	Added to Schedule 1	Uplisted (to a higher risk category)	Downlisted (to a lower risk category)	Delisted	Not listed	Referred back	Decision pending
(Proclamation)	233 <sup>a</sup>	–	233						–
Batch 1 (2004)	95	4	75				9	7	
Batch 2 (2004)	59		44				13	1	1
Batch 3 (2005)	60	4	44				6	1	5
Batch 4 (2006)	54	4	39	2			1	2	6
Emergency Assessment (2006)	1						1		
Batch 5 (2007)	53	8	30	2	3	1			9
Batch 6 (2008)	39	14	20	3			1		1
Batch 7 (2009)	46	17	20	3	1				5
Batch 8 (2010)	78	34	18	3	5		4		14
Batch 9 (2011)	82	31	19	5	7		1	3	16
Batch 10 (2012)	56	28	10	6	5	1		1	5
Emergency Assessment (2012)	3		3						
Batch 11 (2013)	67	33	19	3	5				7
Batch 12 (2014)	52	21	17	2	3		3	6	
Batch 13 (2015)	54	24	19	4	2				5
Batch 14 (2016)	37	7	11	6	9	1			3
Batch 15 (2017)	55	17	11	5	7	1		1	13
Emergency Assessments (2018)	2						2		
Batch 16 (2018)	74	26	13	3	4				28
Batch 17 (2019)	52	15	9	2	2	1			24
Batch 18 (2020)	21	6							15
Batch 19 (2021)	59	22							37
Batch 20 (2022)	43	14							29
Batch 21 (2023)	43	27							16
Listing amendments			654 <sup>b</sup>	49	53	5	38	19	245

a. At proclamation, 233 species were on Schedule 1.

b. The column total is 654, however there are 662 species on Schedule 1 at the end of 2023. This results from COSEWIC confirming the status of a listed wildlife species while, at the same time, assigning those same individuals to two or more wildlife species, at the same status. This usually takes the form of giving the species new population names. Once GIC has accepted these proposed changes, while no individuals are added to Schedule 1 and their statuses do not change, what was previously listed as one species, becomes listed instead as two or more wildlife species under SARA.

## 13.2 Response with Timelines to the Species at Risk Assessments Received from COSEWIC

Table 10a. The Minister's responses to the terrestrial species at risk assessments submitted by COSEWIC in 2023

COSEWIC Status	Taxonomic Group	Common Name (population)	Scientific Name	Consultation Path
Endangered	Arthropods	Bert's Predaceous Diving Beetle	<i>Sanfilippodytes bertae</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Arthropods	Half-moon Hairstreak (Waterton Lakes population)	<i>Satyrium semiluna</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Arthropods	Island Blue	<i>Icaricia saepiolus insulanus</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Arthropods	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus affinis</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Birds	Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Birds	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Birds	White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates albolarvatus</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Mammals (terrestrial)	Eastern Red Bat	<i>Lasiorurus borealis</i>	Normal
Endangered	Mammals (terrestrial)	Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiorurus cinereus</i>	Normal
Endangered	Mammals (terrestrial)	Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Normal
Endangered	Mosses	Poor Pocket Moss	<i>Fissidens pauperculus</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Vascular Plants	California Sword Fern	<i>Polystichum californicum</i>	Normal
Endangered	Vascular Plants	Coastal Manroot	<i>Marah oregana</i>	Normal
Endangered	Vascular Plants	Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum laurentianum</i>	Normal
Extirpated	Amphibians	Eastern Tiger Salamander (Carolinian population)	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Confirmed
Extirpated	Arthropods	American Burying Beetle	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	Confirmed
Extirpated	Arthropods	Island Marble	<i>Euchloe ausonides insulanus</i>	Confirmed
Extirpated	Reptiles	Pacific Gophersnake	<i>Pituophis catenifer catenifer</i>	Confirmed
Extirpated	Reptiles	Pacific Pond Turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	Confirmed
Extirpated	Reptiles	Timber Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Confirmed
Extirpated	Vascular Plants	Spring Blue-eyed Mary	<i>Collinsia verna</i>	Confirmed
Non-active	Birds	Great Blue Heron fannini subspecies	<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>	Extended
Special concern	Amphibians	Great Plains Toad	<i>Anaxyrus cognatus</i>	Confirmed
Special concern	Arthropods	Riverine Clubtail	<i>Stylurus amnicola</i>	Normal
Special concern	Birds	Eastern Whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>	Normal
Special concern	Birds	Savannah Sparrow princeps subspecies	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis princeps</i>	Confirmed
Special concern	Mammals (terrestrial)	Mountain Beaver	<i>Aplodontia rufa</i>	Confirmed

COSEWIC Status	Taxonomic Group	Common Name (population)	Scientific Name	Consultation Path
Special concern	Molluscs	Magnum Mantleslug	<i>Magnipelta mycophaga</i>	Confirmed
Special concern	Vascular Plants	Foothill Sedge	<i>Carex tumulicola</i>	Normal
Special concern	Vascular Plants	Small-flowered Sand-verbena	<i>Tripterocalyx micranthus</i>	Normal
Threatened	Arthropods	Half-moon Hairstreak (Okanagan-Similkameen population)	<i>Satyrium semiluna</i>	Normal
Threatened	Birds	Bicknell's Thrush	<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	Confirmed
Threatened	Lichens	Scaly Fringe Lichen	<i>Heterodermia squamulosa</i>	Normal
Threatened	Vascular Plants	Slender Mouse-ear-cress	<i>Crucihamalaya virgata</i>	Confirmed

Table 10b. The Minister's responses to the aquatic species at risk assessments submitted by COSEWIC in 2023

COSEWIC Status	Taxonomic Group	Common name (population)	Scientific Name	Consultation Path
Endangered	Fishes (freshwater)	Atlantic Whitefish	<i>Coregonus huntsmani</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Reptiles	Leatherback Sea Turtle (Atlantic population)	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Confirmed
Endangered	Reptiles	Leatherback Sea Turtle (Pacific population)	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Confirmed
Special concern	Fishes (freshwater)	Plains Sucker (Saskatchewan-Nelson population)	<i>Pantosteus jordani</i>	Normal
Special concern	Mammals (marine)	Humpback Whale (North Pacific population)	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae kuzira</i>	Confirmed
Special concern	Molluscs	Brook Floater	<i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i>	Confirmed
Threatened	Fishes (freshwater)	Cordilleran Sucker	<i>Pantosteus bondi</i>	Normal
Threatened	Fishes (freshwater)	Plains Sucker (Missouri population)	<i>Pantosteus jordani</i>	Confirmed
Threatened	Mammals (marine)	Northern Fur Seal	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>	Not applicable

### 13.3 Species Not Yet Forwarded to GIC

Table 11a. Assessed terrestrial species that have not yet been forwarded to the GIC for decision

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (assessment date)	Rationale
Aweme Borer	Endangered	Normal	Data Deficient (11/4/2020)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Barn Swallow	Threatened	Extended	Special concern (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in October 2022. The decisions from Wildlife Management Boards for the de-listing of this species were received by the Minister. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)	Special concern	Extended	Endangered (11/1/2017)	Follow-up consultations were extended in part due to covid-19 and are now complete. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board provided their decision to support the listing decision in spring 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Black Ash	No status	Extended	Threatened (11/1/2018)	Initial consultations for this species were initially scheduled from January 2020 to September 2020. Due to COVID-19, this period was initially extended to spring 2022 to allow for sufficient time for all consultations to be completed. Due to the express concerns of several First Nations, consultations remain ongoing.
Black Hills Mountainsnail	No status	Normal	Endangered (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022 ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Canada Warbler	Threatened	Extended	Special concern (11/4/2020)	The consultation period was completed in October 2022. The decisions from Wildlife Management Boards for the downlisting of this species were received by the Minister. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (assessment date)	Rationale
Caribou (Barren-ground population)	No status	Extended	Threatened (11/27/2016)	COSEWIC submitted the assessment and status report of the Barren-ground population of Caribou to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada on October 17th, 2017. Due to the need to engage Indigenous peoples across its range, the Barren-ground Caribou underwent extended consultations. This included consultations with the ten wildlife management boards, such as the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. For a full list of the wildlife management boards consulted, please refer to the Caribou, Barren-ground population 2018 response statement. Further timeline accommodation was required due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Caribou (Eastern Migratory population)	No status	Extended	Endangered (4/28/2017)	Consultations now completed as of December 2023. This species is currently at the starting phase of the regulatory process for decision by the GiC.
Caribou (Torngat Mountains population)	No status	Extended	Endangered (11/27/2016)	ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Cobblestone Tiger Beetle	Endangered	Normal	Special concern (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Cryptic Paw Lichen	Special concern	Extended	Threatened (5/3/2019)	Initial consultations for this species were initially scheduled from January 2020 to September 2020. Due to COVID-19, this period was extended to September 2021 to allow for sufficient time for all consultations to be completed. Delays were also partly due to limited human resources. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Davis's Shieldback	No status	Normal	Threatened (11/4/2020)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Deepwater Sculpin (Waterton Lake population)	No status	Normal	Special concern (4/28/2017)	Parks Canada has decided to continue the consultations for this species. This species will be included in a regulatory bundle for listing proposal once the consultations are complete.

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (assessment date)	Rationale
Ferruginous Hawk	Threatened	Normal	Special concern (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Grapptail	No status	Normal	Special concern (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Hudsonian Godwit	No status	Extended	Threatened (5/3/2019)	Initial consultations for this species were initially scheduled from January 2020 to September 2020. Due to COVID-19, this period was extended to September 2021 to allow for sufficient time for all consultations to be completed. Delays were also partly due to limited human resources.
Island Tiger Moth	No status	Normal	Threatened (5/3/2013)	Follow-up consultations with First Nations in Pacific region were extended but now complete. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Lakeside Daisy	Threatened	Normal	Special concern (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Leach's Storm-Petrel (Atlantic population)	No status	Normal	Threatened (11/4/2020)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Lesser Yellowlegs	No status	Extended	Threatened (11/4/2020)	The consultation period for this species was completed in October 2022. The decisions from Wildlife Management Boards for the de-listing of this species were received by the Minister. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Limber Pine	No status	Normal	Endangered (11/28/2014)	Follow-up consultations with First Nations in Prairie region were considered complete on November 26, 2021. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Maleberry	No status	Normal	Endangered (11/4/2020)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Plains Bison	No status	Extended	Threatened (11/1/2013)	The extended consultations for this species were initiated in 2015. Follow-up consultations in Prairie region are now complete. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (assessment date)	Rationale
Pygmy Whitefish (Waterton Lake population)	No status	Normal	Special concern (11/27/2016)	Parks Canada has decided to continue the consultations for this species. This species will be included in a regulatory bundle for listing proposal once the consultations are complete.
Red Knot <i>islandica</i> subspecies	Special concern	Extended	Not at risk (11/4/2020)	The consultation period for this species was completed in October 2022. The decisions from Wildlife Management Boards for the de-listing of this species were received by the Minister. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Red Knot <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Northeastern South America wintering population)	No status	Extended	Special concern (11/4/2020)	The consultation period for this species was completed in October 2022. The decisions from Wildlife Management Boards for the downlisting of this species were received by the Minister. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Red Knot <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Southeastern USA / Gulf of Mexico / Caribbean wintering population)	No status	Extended	Endangered (11/4/2020)	The consultation period for this species was completed in October 2022. The decisions from Wildlife Management Boards for the downlisting of this species were received by the Minister. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Extended	Endangered (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in October 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Seaside Centipede Lichen	Endangered	Normal	Threatened (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in May 2022. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Short-eared Owl	Special concern	Extended	Threatened (5/5/2021)	The consultation period for this species was completed in October 2022. The regulatory process will proceed as appropriate upon receiving the decisions from Wildlife Management Boards on the proposed uplisting of this species.
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	No status	Extended	Threatened (11/29/2019)	The consultations with First Nations were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but are now completed. Delays were also partly due to limited human resources. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (assessment date)	Rationale
Ute Ladies'-tresses	No status	Normal	Endangered (11/1/2018)	Initial consultations for this species were initially scheduled from January 2020 to September 2020. Due to COVID-19, this period was extended to September 2021 to allow for sufficient time for all consultations to be completed. Delays were also partly due to limited human resources. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Western Harvest Mouse <i>megalotis</i> subspecies	Special concern	Extended	Endangered (11/29/2019)	The consultations with First Nations were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but are now completed. Delays were also partly due to limited human resources. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
White-rimmed Shingle Lichen	No status	Normal	Threatened (5/3/2019)	Initial consultations for this species were initially scheduled from January 2020 to September 2020. Due to COVID-19, this period was extended to September 2021 to allow for sufficient time for all consultations to be completed. Delays were also partly due to limited human resources. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.
Wood Bison	Threatened	Extended	Special concern (11/1/2013)	ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines
Yukon Draba	No status	Extended	Special concern (11/1/2018)	Initial consultations for this species were initially scheduled from January 2020 to September 2020. Due to COVID-19, this period was extended to September 2021 to allow for sufficient time for all consultations to be completed. Delays were also partly due to limited human resources. ECCC will develop options for listing according to governmental priorities and standard regulatory timelines.

Table 11b. Assessed aquatic species that have not yet been forwarded to the GIC for decision

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (Assessment date)	Rationale
<b>Aquatic Species</b>				
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound population)	Threatened, Schedule 1	Normal	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic - Baffin Bay population)	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive. Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Beluga Whale (Ungava Bay population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Bering Cisco	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2017)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Brassy Minnow (Missouri population)	None	Normal	Special Concern (May 2022)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species underway.
Brassy Minnow (Pacific population)	None	Normal	Special Concern (May 2022)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Brassy Minnow (Western Arctic population)	None	Normal	Special Concern (May 2022)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species underway.
Chinook Salmon (East Vancouver Island, Ocean, Fall population)	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2020)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Chinook Salmon (East Vancouver Island, Ocean, Summer population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (East Vancouver Island, Stream, Spring population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Lower Fraser, Ocean, Fall population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Lower Fraser, Ocean, Summer population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Lower Fraser, Stream, Spring population)	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2018)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (Assessment date)	Rationale
<b>Aquatic Species</b>				
Chinook Salmon (Lower Fraser, Stream, Summer (Upper Pitt) population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Lower Fraser, Stream, Summer population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Lower Thompson, Strean, Spring population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Middle Fraser, Stream, Fall population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Middle Fraser, Stream, Spring (MFR+GStr) population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Middle Fraser, Stream, Spring population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Middle Fraser, Stream, Summer population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (North Thompson, Stream, Spring population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (North Thompson, Stream, Summer population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (South Thompson, Stream, Summer 1.2 population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (South Thompson, Stream, Summer 1.3 population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Southern Mainland Boundary Bay, Ocean, Fall population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (Upper Fraser, Stream, Spring population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (Assessment date)	Rationale
<b>Aquatic Species</b>				
Chinook Salmon (West Vancouver Island, Ocean, Fall (Nootka & Kyuquot) population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Chinook Salmon (West Vancouver Island, Ocean, Fall (South) population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Coastrange Sculpin (Cultus Lake population)	Threatened, Schedule 1	Not Applicable	Endangered (Nov. 2019)	The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Eastern Sand Darter (Quebec populations)	Threatened, Schedule 1	Normal	Special Concern (May 2022)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Eastern Sand Darter (West Lake population)	None	Normal	Threatened (May 2022)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
European Whitefish (Dezadeash Lake large-bodied population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Apr. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
European Whitefish (Dezadeash Lake small-bodied population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Apr. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
European Whitefish (Little Teslin Lake small-bodied population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Apr. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
European Whitefish (Squanga Lake small-bodied population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Apr. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Fin Whale (Pacific population)	Threatened, Schedule 1	Normal	Special Concern (May 2019)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Grey Whale (Atlantic population)	Extirpated, Schedule 1	Normal	Extinct (May 2022)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Grey Whale (Pacific Coast Feeding Group population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive. Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Grey Whale (Western Pacific population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive. Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Lake Chub (Atlin Warm Springs populations)	None	Normal	Threatened (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species underway.

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (Assessment date)	Rationale
<b>Aquatic Species</b>				
Lake Chub (Liard Hot Springs populations)	None	Normal	Threatened (Nov. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species underway.
Lake Whitefish (Little Teslin Lake large-bodied population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Apr. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Lake Whitefish (Opeongo Lake large-bodied population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Apr. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive. Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Lake Whitefish (Opeongo Lake small-bodied population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Apr. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive. Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Lake Whitefish (Squanga Lake large-bodied population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Apr. 2018)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Lumpfish	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive. Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Northern Brook Lamprey (Saskatchewan - Nelson River populations)	None	Normal	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Purple Wartyback	None	Normal	Threatened (May 2021)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Ringed Seal	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2019)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive. Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Rocky Mountain Sculpin (Missouri River populations)	None	Not Applicable	Threatened (Nov. 2019)	The Rocky Mountain Sculpin Eastslope populations is currently listed as threatened under SARA. The Eastslope population was split into two when re-assessed by COSEWIC: the Missouri River population and Saskatchewan – Nelson River populations. Both populations remain threatened. A SARA listing decision on this change in populations structure is expected to be advanced soon.

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (Assessment date)	Rationale
<b>Aquatic Species</b>				
Rocky Mountain Sculpin (Saskatchewan-Nelson River populations)	None	Not Applicable	Threatened (Nov. 2019)	The Rocky Mountain Sculpin Eastslope populations is currently listed as threatened under SARA. The Eastslope population was split into two when re-assessed by COSEWIC: the Missouri River population and Saskatchewan – Nelson River populations. Both populations remain threatened. A SARA listing decision on this change in populations structure is expected to be advanced soon.
Sei Whale (Atlantic population)	None	Extended	Endangered (May 2019)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Shortfin Mako (Atlantic population)	None	Extended	Endangered (May. 2019)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive. Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Silver Lamprey (Saskatchewan - Nelson River populations)	None	Normal	Special Concern (Nov. 2020)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Sockeye Salmon (Bowron-ES population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Sockeye Salmon (Cultus-L population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Sockeye Salmon (Francois-Fraser-S population)	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2017)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Sockeye Salmon (Harrison (D/S)-L population)	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2017)	The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Sockeye Salmon (Harrison (U/S)-L population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Sockeye Salmon (Kamloops-ES population)	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2017)	The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Sockeye Salmon (Lillooet-Harrison-L population)	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2017)	The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Sockeye Salmon (Nahatlatch-ES population)	None	Extended	Special Concern (Nov. 2017)	Public consultations have been completed. The analysis of information is underway to inform a listing decision.
Sockeye Salmon (North Barriere-ES population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.

Common name (population)	SARA Status	Consultation Path	COSEWIC Status (Assessment date)	Rationale
<b>Aquatic Species</b>				
Sockeye Salmon (Quesnel-S population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Sockeye Salmon (Seton-L population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Sockeye Salmon (Takla-Trembleur-EStu population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Sockeye Salmon (Takla-Trembleur-Stuart-S population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Sockeye Salmon (Taseko-ES population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Sockeye Salmon (Widgeon (River-Type) population)	None	Extended	Threatened (Nov. 2017)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Steelhead Trout (Chilcotin River population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Steelhead Trout (Thompson River population)	None	Extended	Endangered (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is extensive and underway.
Yelloweye Rockfish (Pacific Ocean inside waters population)	Special Concern, Schedule 1	Normal	Threatened (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is underway.
Yelloweye Rockfish (Pacific Ocean outside waters population)	Special Concern, Schedule 1	Normal	Threatened (Nov. 2020)	The collection of information required to inform a listing decision for the species is underway.