

CONSULTATION WORKBOOK

on the addition of the Lake Sturgeon populations:

- DU1 - Western Hudson Bay
- DU2 - Saskatchewan River
- DU3 - Nelson River
- DU4 - Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg
- DU5 - Winnipeg River – English River
- DU6 - Lake-of-the-Woods –Rainy River
- DU7 - Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay
- DU8 - Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence

to the SARA List:



December 2007

Please send your comments on this consultation to one of the following Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) offices:

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To request additional copies of the workbook, please call 1-866-538-1609.

For more information on the Species at Risk Act, please visit the Public Registry at
<http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca>

For more information on species at risk, please visit the Fisheries & Oceans Canada aquatic Species at Risk website:
<http://www.aquaticspeciesatrisk.gc.ca>

or

Environment Canada's Species at Risk website:
www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca

Information on species at risk is also available on the website of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):
www.cosewic.gc.ca

Credit:
Lake Sturgeon – Joe Tomelleri

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PART 1: ADDING A SPECIES OR POPULATION TO THE SARA LIST

INTRODUCTION

The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) was proclaimed on June 5, 2003, by the Government of Canada. SARA provides a framework for actions across Canada to promote the survival of wildlife species and the protection of our natural heritage. It sets out how to decide which species are a priority for action and what to do to protect a species. It identifies ways governments, organizations and individuals can work together, and it establishes penalties for failures to obey the law.

Two federal Ministers are responsible for the administration of SARA. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is the competent Minister for aquatic species. The Minister of the Environment is the competent Minister for all other species at risk, including those found in national parks, national historic sites and other protected heritage areas. The Minister of the Environment is also responsible for the overall administration of the Act.

The Act protects the plants and animals included on a list within SARA (Schedule 1). Schedule 1 is also referred to as the List of Wildlife Species at Risk and will be referred to as the SARA List in the rest of this workbook. Candidate species are proposed for addition to the SARA List as a result of the work of the scientists and conservationists who are members of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). They conduct scientific assessments of the status of species. Community and Aboriginal traditional knowledge are also included in species assessments when available. The Government then decides which species are added to the SARA List as such action could have economic or social implications.

233 species were included on the SARA List of the Act when Parliament passed SARA in December 2002. COSEWIC had already assessed these species as “at risk” using new updated assessment criteria and current information. When the Act came into force in June 2003, these species were on the initial SARA List.

Since then, COSEWIC has identified more species that are at risk. The Minister of Environment is now considering recommending those species for addition to the SARA List. As part of that process, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is currently carrying out public consultations on the eight designatable units (DU) of Lake Sturgeon. Five of these units were assessed as Endangered and they include the Saskatchewan River populations (DU2) (Figure 1), the Nelson River populations (DU3), Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations (DU4), the Winnipeg River – English River populations (DU5) and the Western Hudson Bay populations (DU1). The Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations (DU8)) were assessed as Threatened and the Lake-of-the-Woods – Rainy River (DU6) and Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations (DU7) were assessed as Special Concern. The purpose of this consultation workbook is to invite Canadians to let us know whether these designatable units should be added to the SARA List.

BACKGROUND

The Species at Risk Act

The *Species at Risk Act* strengthens the Government of Canada's ability to protect Canadian plants and animals in danger of becoming extinct. This protection applies only to species which are included on the SARA List. Adding a species to the SARA List requires a two-step process. The first step is identifying a species at risk and the second step is the listing of that species.

Identifying a species at risk

COSEWIC is an independent group whose mandate is to assess the status of plants and animals in Canada and identify those at risk. The committee is made up of biologists, ecologists, geneticists and individuals with Aboriginal traditional knowledge who are experts on wildlife species at risk. Members come from many areas, including government, universities, Aboriginal organizations and non-government agencies.

COSEWIC assesses the biological status of a species using the best available information on the biological status of the species. It reviews research, considers community and Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and applies strict assessment criteria. COSEWIC meets once a year to assess the biological status of species. Species that COSEWIC considers to be "at risk" are designated to one of the following categories:

Extinct – A wildlife species that no longer exists.

Extirpated – A wildlife species that is no longer found in the wild in Canada but may be found elsewhere.

Endangered – A wildlife species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

Threatened – A wildlife species likely to become Endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors threatening it.

Special Concern – A wildlife species that may become a Threatened or Endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Listing a species at risk

The process of listing a species begins when COSEWIC submits its assessment to the Minister of the Environment. Upon receiving the assessment the Minister has 90 days to issue a Response Statement on how he or she intends to respond to the assessment and, to the extent possible, provide time lines for action. The Minister then forwards the species assessment to Governor in Council (GiC)¹. Nine months after receiving the COSEWIC assessment the GiC, on the recommendations of the Minister of the Environment, can decide to...

a) Accept the COSEWIC assessment and add the species to the SARA List;

¹ Governor in Council is the Governor General of Canada acting on the advice of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada (i.e. Cabinet).

- b) Not add the species to the SARA List; or,
- c) Refer the matter back to COSEWIC for further information or consideration.

GIC has nine months after receiving the COSEWIC assessment to decide whether the species should be added to the SARA List. If a decision has not been made within that time period, the Minister of the Environment will add the species to the SARA List.

What does it mean when a species or population is added to the SARA List?

The amount of protection the SARA provides depends on the assessed category. It is an offence to kill, harm, harass, possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual of an Extirpated, Endangered and Threatened species. It is also illegal under the Act to damage or destroy the residences of Endangered and Threatened species, or for Extirpated species if a recovery strategy has recommended the introduction of the species into the wild in Canada. These prohibitions do not apply to species of Special Concern like the Lake-of-the-Woods – Rainy River and Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations.

SARA protects all listed birds covered under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, 1994, all listed aquatic species and all listed species on federal lands. The provinces and territories are responsible for making sure that all listed Extirpated, Endangered and Threatened species that are located outside federal lands receive adequate protection. However, if that protection is not given, the federal government can intervene, using “safety-net” provisions of SARA, but only after consulting with the province or territory concerned and carrying out public consultations.

The ministers of the Environment and of Fisheries and Oceans can, under special circumstances, make exceptions to SARA. For example, they can issue a permit that would allow a qualified scientist to carry out a research project that benefits a listed species or is required to enhance its chances of survival in the wild. Exceptions can only be made if all reasonable alternatives have been considered and if the Minister can be assured that the survival or recovery of the species will not be jeopardized.

Recovery strategies and action plans for Extirpated, Endangered and Threatened species

If a wildlife species is added to the SARA List as an Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened species, the competent Minister must prepare a strategy for its recovery. Recovery Strategies must be completed and made available on the SARA Public Registry, for public review, within one year for newly listed Endangered species and within two years for Threatened and Extirpated species. The Recovery Strategy addresses known threats to the species, identifies critical habitat to the extent possible and gaps in knowledge. It also sets a recovery goal. The Recovery Strategy is followed up with one or more Action Plans that identify ways to reduce threats to the species and protect its critical habitat, as well as other measures to be taken to implement the Recovery Strategy.

The Recovery Strategy and Actions Plans are prepared in cooperation and consultation with Wildlife Management Boards, Aboriginal communities that are directly affected by the Recovery Strategy, and jurisdictions such as provincial or territorial governments

who are responsible for the management of the species. Landowners and others who are directly affected will also be consulted. Upon completion, the recovery strategy is posted on the SARA Public Registry and the public has 60 days to inform the Minister of their views.

Management plans for Species of Special Concern

If a wildlife species is listed as a species of Special Concern, the responsible Minister must prepare a Management Plan. It must be posted on the SARA Public Registry within three years of the species being added to the SARA List. The Management Plan identifies conservation measures aimed at protecting the species and its habitat. A Management Plan is prepared in cooperation with groups directly affected by the plans, including Wildlife Management Boards and Aboriginal organizations. To the extent possible, landowners, land users and others who may be directly affected by the plans will also be consulted. Upon completion, the Management Plan is posted on the SARA Public Registry and the public has 60 days to inform the Minister of their views.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Why are we having these consultations?

Before the Minister of the Environment makes a recommendation to GIC about whether to add a species to the SARA List, he or she will consider the balance between the social and economic benefits and costs associated with adding the species to the SARA List and the potential consequences for the species and Canadians of not adding it. The Government will meet with wildlife management boards, Aboriginal groups or organizations and other members of the public who have either a direct interest in the species under consideration or wish to comment on the issue. This includes – but is not limited to – landowners, land users, non-government environmental organizations, industries and industry groups. This consultation workbook is another way in which you can let us know what you think.

Comments received from Canadians will be carefully reviewed, evaluated and documented in a Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement (RIAS). The RIAS is an important part of the federal government's regulatory process. In addition, a draft Order (an instrument that serves notice of a decision taken by the executive arm of government) proposing to add the species to the SARA List is prepared. This draft Order along with the RIAS will be published in the Canada Gazette Part I for a period of time to allow Canadians another opportunity to comment. The Minister of the Environment will take into consideration all received comments before recommending to the GIC whether to add the species to the SARA List or not. The GIC's decision will be published in the Canada Gazette Part II and made available on the SARA Public Registry.

Invitation to submit comments

Consultations concerning adding species to the SARA List are part of the Government's commitment to encourage public participation in programs designed to protect Canadian plants and animals and their habitat. The eight designatable units of Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations, the Nelson River populations, Red-Assiniboine rivers

– Lake Winnipeg populations, the Winnipeg River – English River populations and the Western Hudson Bay populations – Endangered; The Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations - Threatened and the Lake-of-the-Woods – Rainy River and Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations - Special Concern) have been recently assessed and designated by COSEWIC and are being considered for addition to the SARA List. We welcome your comments about whether any or all of these units of Lake Sturgeon should be added to the SARA List.

A questionnaire has been provided near the end of this workbook. Please fill it out and mail or fax your answers to one of the following DFO offices:

Central and Arctic Region
SARA Coordinator
Freshwater Institute
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501 University Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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Fax: 418-775-0542
Toll-Free: 1-877-775-0848

The deadline for submission of comments is **April 25, 2008**.

SARA PUBLIC REGISTRY

The SARA Public Registry, available on the Internet, is a complete source of information on topics covered by the Act and offers access to public records concerning the administration of SARA. It is a key instrument that allows the government to respect its commitment to support public contribution in the environmental decision-making process. The Public Registry can be found at the following address:

<http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca>

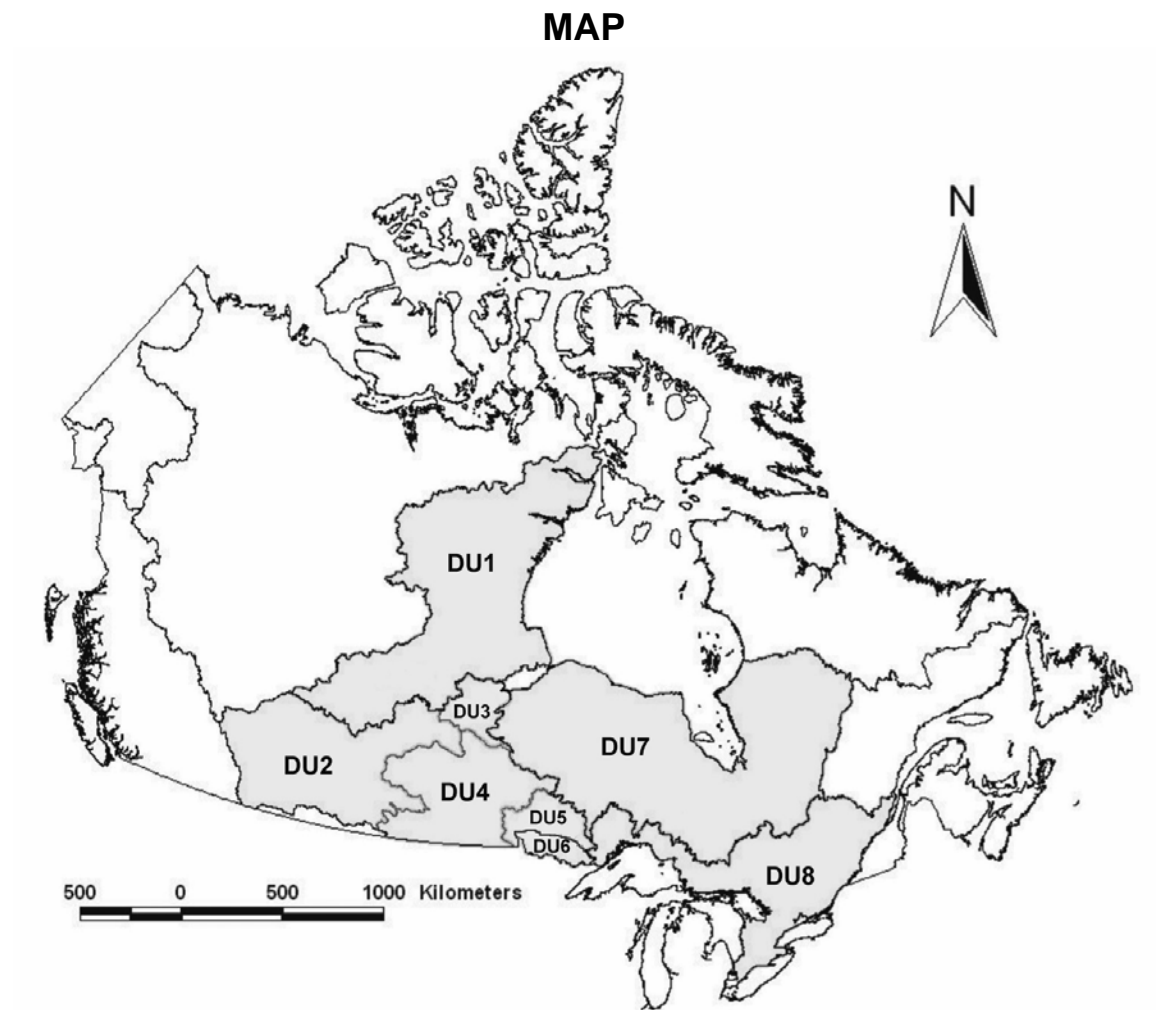


Figure 1. The eight designatable units of Lake Sturgeon. DU1-Western Hudson Bay; DU2-Saskatchewan River; DU3-Nelson River; DU4-Red-Assiniboine-Lake Winnipeg; DU5-Winnipeg River-English River; DU6-Lake-of-the-Woods-Rainy River; DU7-Southern Hudson Bay-James Bay; DU8-Great Lakes-Western St. Lawrence (modified from COSEWIC status report 2007).

PART 2: INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPECIES

Lake Sturgeon (DU1 - Western Hudson Bay populations)

Status: Endangered

Last examined by COSEWIC: November 2006

Biology

The Lake Sturgeon is one of Canada's largest freshwater fishes reaching lengths of up to 3 m and weights of up to 180 kg. It has a torpedo-shaped body characterized by a "shark like" tail and rows of enlarged bony plates or scutes; one located down the back and two rows along each side. These scutes are believed to protect young sturgeon from predators and older sturgeon from injury. Other distinguishing features include a protrusible (sucking) mouth located on the underside of a long snout and a row of four barbels or feelers, used to detect food, located across the front of the mouth. Sturgeon are generally found in larger lakes and rivers and are mainly bottom dwellers feeding of worms, insect larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. They are a slow growing fish but are also long lived, occasionally exceeding 100 years in age. Sexual maturity may not be reached until as late as 25 years with females not spawning in every year. Spawning typically occurs in late May to mid-June within fast water, usually at the base of rapids or falls.

Where are they found?

They are found in the Churchill River system of northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

How many fish are there?

Historic harvest information indicates a decline of over 90% of this population between 1920s and 1940s with no evidence of subsequent substantial increase since.

Threats to the population

Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include overexploitation, dams, habitat degradation, contaminants, and introduced species. Commercial fishing was the most significant factor that caused the historical decline of Lake Sturgeon populations. Current threats include dams. Their impacts include barriers to movement especially during spawning, entrainment, and disruptions of seasonal habitat, and spawning triggers and timing.

COSEWIC Reason for Designation:

A precipitous > 98% decline from 1929-1939 has been followed by a slow, steady decline in the Churchill River to the point that records of mature individuals are almost non-existent in the past five years. Historically, overexploitation probably was the primary threat; more recently, dams are probably the most important threat.

What will happen if this fish is added to the SARA List?

A recovery strategy must be prepared within one year of the Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations) being added to the SARA List.

Lake Sturgeon (DU2 - Saskatchewan River populations)

Status: Endangered

Last examined by COSEWIC: November 2006

Biology

The Lake Sturgeon is one of Canada's largest freshwater fishes reaching lengths of up to 3 m and weights of up to 180 kg. It has a torpedo-shaped body characterized by a "shark like" tail and rows of enlarged bony plates or scutes; one located down the back and two rows along each side. These scutes are believed to protect young sturgeon from predators and older sturgeon from injury. Other distinguishing features include a protrusible (sucking) mouth located on the underside of a long snout and a row of four barbels or feelers, used to detect food, located across the front of the mouth. Sturgeon are generally found in larger lakes and rivers and are mainly bottom dwellers feeding of worms, insect larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. They are a slow growing fish but are also long lived, occasionally exceeding 100 years in age. Sexual maturity may not be reached until as late as 25 years with females not spawning in every year. Spawning typically occurs in late May to mid-June within fast water, usually at the base of rapids or falls.

Where are they found?

They are found in the Saskatchewan River and all immediate drainages (in western Manitoba, central Saskatchewan and east-central Alberta) upstream of the Grand Rapids Dam at Lake Winnipeg.

How many fish are there?

There have been major reductions in the numbers of fish from the 1920s to 1960s. And since the 1970s there has been a further decline of as much as 80% of Lake Sturgeon in this river system.

Threats to the population

Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include overexploitation, dams, habitat degradation, contaminants, and introduced species. Commercial fishing was the most significant factor that caused the historical decline of Lake Sturgeon populations. Currently, the major threat is dams. Their impacts include barriers to movement especially during spawning, entrainment, and disruptions of seasonal habitat, and spawning triggers and timing.

COSEWIC Reason for Designation:

Seventy-six of 111 historic sites in Saskatchewan and Alberta have been lost and there has been an 80% decline reported in the Cumberland House area from 1960-2001. A 50% decline from 1998 to 2003 has also been reported in the lower Saskatchewan River from Cumberland House to The Pas in Manitoba.

What will happen if this fish is added to the SARA List?

A recovery strategy must be prepared within one year of the Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations) being added to the SARA List.

Lake Sturgeon (DU3 - Nelson River populations)

Status: Endangered

Last examined by COSEWIC: November 2006

Biology

The Lake Sturgeon is one of Canada's largest freshwater fishes reaching lengths of up to 3 m and weights of up to 180 kg. It has a torpedo-shaped body characterized by a "shark like" tail and rows of enlarged bony plates or scutes; one located down the back and two rows along each side. These scutes are believed to protect young sturgeon from predators and older sturgeon from injury. Other distinguishing features include a protrusible (sucking) mouth located on the underside of a long snout and a row of four barbels or feelers, used to detect food, located across the front of the mouth. Sturgeon are generally found in larger lakes and rivers and are mainly bottom dwellers feeding of worms, insect larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. They are a slow growing fish but are also long lived, occasionally exceeding 100 years in age. Sexual maturity may not be reached until as late as 25 years with females not spawning in every year. Spawning typically occurs in late May to mid-June within fast water, usually at the base of rapids or falls.

Where are they found?

They are found in the Nelson River system in northeastern Manitoba.

How many fish are there?

Historic commercial harvest data indicated large declines in abundance of Lake Sturgeon in the Nelson River system since the early 1900s. Dams have fragmented the population into isolated sub-populations; numbers of fish in the largest sub-population have declined 80-90% from the early 1960s to late 1990s and declined further thereafter.

Threats to the population

Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include overexploitation, dams, habitat degradation, contaminants, and introduced species. Commercial fishing was the most significant factor that caused the historical decline of Lake Sturgeon populations. Currently, the major threat is dams. Their impacts include barriers to movement especially during spawning, entrainment, and disruptions of seasonal habitat, and spawning triggers and timing.

COSEWIC Reason for Designation:

Portions of this designatable unit sustained large commercial fisheries from the early to mid-1900s, during which time there were dramatic declines in landings. More recently, a fishery at Sipiwesk Lake exhibited an 80-90% decline in landings from 1987-2000; and groups of 5-6 spawning fish were observed in the Landing River in 1990 compared to 100s observed several decades ago. Historically, overexploitation probably was the primary threat; more recently, dams probably are the most important threat.

What will happen if this fish is added to the SARA List?

A recovery strategy must be prepared within one year of the Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River populations) being added to the SARA List.

Lake Sturgeon (DU4 - Red-Assiniboine rivers - Lake Winnipeg populations)

Status: Endangered

Last examined by COSEWIC: November 2006

Biology

The Lake Sturgeon is one of Canada's largest freshwater fishes reaching lengths of up to 3 m and weights of up to 180 kg. It has a torpedo-shaped body characterized by a "shark like" tail and rows of enlarged bony plates or scutes; one located down the back and two rows along each side. These scutes are believed to protect young sturgeon from predators and older sturgeon from injury. Other distinguishing features include a protrusible (sucking) mouth located on the underside of a long snout and a row of four barbels or feelers, used to detect food, located across the front of the mouth. Sturgeon are generally found in larger lakes and rivers and are mainly bottom dwellers feeding of worms, insect larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. They are a slow growing fish but are also long lived, occasionally exceeding 100 years in age. Sexual maturity may not be reached until as late as 25 years with females not spawning in every year. Spawning typically occurs in late May to mid-June within fast water, usually at the base of rapids or falls.

Where are they found?

They are found in the Red and Assiniboine rivers, and Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries the Bloodvein, Pigeon, Poplar and Berens rivers in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario.

How many fish are there?

Lake Sturgeon in Lake Winnipeg were depleted by commercial exploitation in the first decades of 1900s. Populations in the Red and Assiniboine rivers were also depleted and there is no evidence of naturally producing populations in these watersheds in recent years. Smaller rivers draining into Lake Winnipeg continue to support Lake Sturgeon but with fewer than 100 spawning females.

Threats to the population

Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include overexploitation, dams, habitat degradation, contaminants, and introduced species. Commercial fishing was the most significant factor that caused the historical decline of Lake Sturgeon populations. Currently, the major threat is dams. Their impacts include barriers to movement especially during spawning, entrainment, and disruptions of seasonal habitat, and spawning triggers and timing.

COSEWIC Reason for Designation:

A very large commercial fishery existed between the late 1800s and early 1900s. Since then (i.e. in the last 3-5 generations), the species has virtually disappeared from the Red-Assiniboine River and Lake Winnipeg. This was primarily the result of overfishing, although dams probably also affect remnant populations.

What will happen if this fish is added to the SARA List?

A recovery strategy must be prepared within one year of the Lake Sturgeon (Red-Assiniboine rivers - Lake Winnipeg populations) being added to the SARA List.

Lake Sturgeon (DU5 - Winnipeg River - English River populations)

Status: Endangered

Last examined by COSEWIC: November 2006

Biology

The Lake Sturgeon is one of Canada's largest freshwater fishes reaching lengths of up to 3 m and weights of up to 180 kg. It has a torpedo-shaped body characterized by a "shark like" tail and rows of enlarged bony plates or scutes; one located down the back and two rows along each side. These scutes are believed to protect young sturgeon from predators and older sturgeon from injury. Other distinguishing features include a protrusible (sucking) mouth located on the underside of a long snout and a row of four barbels or feelers, used to detect food, located across the front of the mouth. Sturgeon are generally found in larger lakes and rivers and are mainly bottom dwellers feeding of worms, insect larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. They are a slow growing fish but are also long lived, occasionally exceeding 100 years in age. Sexual maturity may not be reached until as late as 25 years with females not spawning in every year. Spawning typically occurs in late May to mid-June within fast water, usually at the base of rapids or falls.

Where are they found?

They are found in the Winnipeg and English rivers systems in southeastern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario.

How many fish are there?

Populations in these river systems once supported commercial harvesting in the 1930s but harvests declined thereafter until it was closed in 1970. At present Lake Sturgeon are uncommon to rare at historically major spawning sites and are rarely taken in angling and subsistence catches.

Threats to the population

Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include overexploitation, dams, habitat degradation, contaminants, and introduced species. Commercial fishing was the most significant factor that caused the historical decline of Lake Sturgeon populations. Currently, the major threat is dams. Their impacts include barriers to movement especially during spawning, entrainment, and disruptions of seasonal habitat, and spawning triggers and timing.

COSEWIC Reason for Designation:

Historically, populations in this designatable unit supported a large commercial fishery. However, there are limited historical and recent data. The limited recent data available shows that populations are declining in the Winnipeg River above Seven Sisters Dam, and essentially have disappeared below the dam. Historically, overexploitation probably was the primary threat; now dams and poaching probably are the most important threats.

What will happen if this fish is added to the SARA List?

A recovery strategy must be prepared within one year of the Lake Sturgeon (Winnipeg River – English River populations) being added to the SARA List.

Lake Sturgeon (DU6 - Lake-of-the-Woods – Rainy River populations)

Status: Special Concern

Last examined by COSEWIC: November 2006

Biology

The Lake Sturgeon is one of Canada's largest freshwater fishes reaching lengths of up to 3 m and weights of up to 180 kg. It has a torpedo-shaped body characterized by a "shark like" tail and rows of enlarged bony plates or scutes; one located down the back and two rows along each side. These scutes are believed to protect young sturgeon from predators and older sturgeon from injury. Other distinguishing features include a protrusible (sucking) mouth located on the underside of a long snout and a row of four barbels or feelers, used to detect food, located across the front of the mouth. Sturgeon are generally found in larger lakes and rivers and are mainly bottom dwellers feeding of worms, insect larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. They are a slow growing fish but are also long lived, occasionally exceeding 100 years in age. Sexual maturity may not be reached until as late as 25 years with females not spawning in every year. Spawning typically occurs in late May to mid-June within fast water, usually at the base of rapids or falls.

Where are they found?

They are found in the Lake-of-the-Woods and Rainy River systems in northwestern Ontario.

How many fish are there?

Lake Sturgeon were reduced by commercial fishery in the 1800s but there has been substantial rebuilding in recent decades. Total population estimate is not available, but estimates of the Rainy River/Lake portion of Lake-of-the-Woods exceed 50,000 fish that are greater than one meter.

Threats to the population

Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include overexploitation, dams, habitat degradation, contaminants, and introduced species. Commercial fishing was the most significant factor that caused the historical decline of Lake Sturgeon populations. Currently, the major threat is dams. Their impacts include barriers to movement especially during spawning, entrainment, and disruptions of seasonal habitat, and spawning triggers and timing.

COSEWIC Reason for Designation:

Historically, populations in this designatable unit supported a substantial commercial fishery. Although this led to a severe decline, recovery has been sustained since 1970. Dams have not impeded access to important stretches of suitable habitat, but do restrict immigration from the adjacent Winnipeg River.

What will happen if this fish is added to the SARA List?

A management plan must be prepared within three years of the Lake Sturgeon (Lake-of-the-Woods – Rainy River populations) being added to the SARA List.

Lake Sturgeon (DU7 - Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay population)

Status: Special Concern

Last examined by COSEWIC: November 2006

Biology

The Lake Sturgeon is one of Canada's largest freshwater fishes reaching lengths of up to 3 m and weights of up to 180 kg. It has a torpedo-shaped body characterized by a "shark like" tail and rows of enlarged bony plates or scutes; one located down the back and two rows along each side. These scutes are believed to protect young sturgeon from predators and older sturgeon from injury. Other distinguishing features include a protrusible (sucking) mouth located on the underside of a long snout and a row of four barbels or feelers, used to detect food, located across the front of the mouth. Sturgeon are generally found in larger lakes and rivers and are mainly bottom dwellers feeding of worms, insect larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. They are a slow growing fish but are also long lived, occasionally exceeding 100 years in age. Sexual maturity may not be reached until as late as 25 years with females not spawning in every year. Spawning typically occurs in late May to mid-June within fast water, usually at the base of rapids or falls.

Where are they found?

Fish within the Southern Hudson Bay and James Bay ecozone are widely distributed among many large river systems of northeastern Manitoba (such as the Hayes and Gods rivers), northern Ontario and northwestern Quebec.

How many fish are there?

Populations in a number of watersheds in northeastern Manitoba, northern Ontario and northwestern Quebec appear healthy but they are poorly quantified. Many drainages have not been subjected to commercial fisheries and where they did occurred, all but three have been closed due to unsustainable harvesting in the past.

Threats to the population

Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include overexploitation, dams, habitat degradation, contaminants, and introduced species. Commercial fishing was the most significant factor that caused the historical decline of Lake Sturgeon populations. Currently, the major threat is dams. Their impacts include barriers to movement especially during spawning, entrainment, and disruptions of seasonal habitat, and spawning triggers and timing. In a major part of the Lake Sturgeon distribution area in Northern Quebec, Lake Sturgeon fishing, since 1973, has been limited to the Native people.

COSEWIC Reason for Designation:

There are limited population data available for populations in this designatable unit and there have been declines in habitat and possibly abundance for some population components related to exploitation and the multitude of dams. The increased access to relatively unimpacted populations and the likelihood of increased hydroelectric development in some areas are causes for concern for this designatable unit.

What will happen if this fish is added to the SARA List?

A management plan must be prepared within three years of the Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations) being added to the SARA List.

Lake Sturgeon (DU8 - Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations)

Status: Threatened

Last examined by COSEWIC: November 2006

Biology

The Lake Sturgeon is one of Canada's largest freshwater fishes reaching lengths of up to 3 m and weights of up to 180 kg. It has a torpedo-shaped body characterized by a "shark like" tail and rows of enlarged bony plates or scutes; one located down the back and two rows along each side. These scutes are believed to protect young sturgeon from predators and older sturgeon from injury. Other distinguishing features include a protrusible (sucking) mouth located on the underside of a long snout and a row of four barbels or feelers, used to detect food, located across the front of the mouth. Sturgeon are generally found in larger lakes and rivers and are mainly bottom dwellers feeding of worms, insect larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. They are a slow growing fish but are also long lived, occasionally exceeding 100 years in age. Sexual maturity may not be reached until as late as 25 years with females not spawning in every year. Spawning typically occurs in late May to mid-June within fast water, usually at the base of rapids or falls.

Where are they found?

They are found in the Great Lakes and Western St. Lawrence in Ontario and Quebec.

How many fish are there?

Populations of Lake Sturgeon in the Great Lakes and tributaries have been greatly reduced because of commercial fisheries in late 1800s or early 1900s but self-sustaining populations are still present throughout. In the Quebec portion of the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries, there are indications that some populations are increasing due to habitat improvement initiatives and better enforcement of existing sustainable fisheries.

Threats to the population

Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include overexploitation, dams, habitat degradation, contaminants, and introduced species. Commercial fishing was the most significant factor that caused the historical decline of Lake Sturgeon populations. Currently, the major threat is dams. Their impacts include barriers to movement especially during spawning, entrainment, and disruptions of seasonal habitat, and spawning triggers and timing.

COSEWIC Reason for Designation:

A very large commercial fishery existed in the Great Lakes between the mid-1800s and early 1900s (i.e. 2-3 generations ago) during which time populations of this species were reduced to a small fraction of their original size, and appear to be still at very low levels. Populations appear to be declining in parts of the Ottawa River, and disappearing from many of its tributaries due to dams. There has been a recent decline in the population in the St. Lawrence River probably due to overexploitation despite recovery efforts. The direct and indirect effects of dams, chemical control of sea lamprey, contaminants and invasive species currently threaten populations.

What will happen if this fish is added to the SARA List?

A recovery strategy must be prepared within two years of the Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations) being added to the SARA List.

PART 3: LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

By answering the following questions you will help the federal government understand the benefits and impacts of adding the eight designatable units of Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations, the Nelson River populations, Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations, the Winnipeg River – English River populations and the Western Hudson Bay populations – Endangered; The Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations – Threatened; Lake-of-the-Woods – Rainy River and Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations - Special Concern) - to the SARA List.

Please fill out the questionnaire that follows and send us your answers by mail or fax to one of the following DFO offices:

Central and Arctic Region
SARA Coordinator
Freshwater Institute
Fisheries & Oceans Canada
501 University Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 2N6
Email: fwisar@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Fax: 204-983-5192
Toll-Free: 1-866-538-1609

Quebec Region
SARA Coordinator
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
P.O. Box 1000, 850 route de la Mer
Mont-Joli, Quebec
G5H 3Z4
Email: especiesperilqc@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Fax: 418-775-0542
Toll-Free: 1-877-775-0848

The deadline for receiving comments is **April 25, 2008**.

For questions or comments concerning the *Species at Risk Act* or concerning this consultation process, please write to us at the address given above or call us at (204) 984-0599.

THANK YOU

Lake Sturgeon (DU1 – Western Hudson Bay populations) Questionnaire

Species of interest: Lake Sturgeon (DU1 - Western Hudson Bay populations)

Your name (optional):

Your Organization/Community/First Nation affiliation (Optional):

1a) Are you in favour of the Government of Canada adding the Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations) to the SARA List?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) If 'Yes' or 'No', please let us know why

c) If 'Undecided', please tell us why

2. Why is listing or not listing Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations) important to you?

Please choose an option that best reflects your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	I have no opinion
Has social and/or cultural significance (e.g. traditional purposes) to my community						
Is an important part of the Aboriginal or Canadian heritage						
Is or was an important subsistence food source						

Lake Sturgeon (DU1 – Western Hudson Bay populations) Questionnaire

Has economic value (e.g. recreational or commercial fishery)						
Provides job opportunities (e.g. tourism) to the local economy						
Plays an important role in maintaining a healthy freshwater ecosystem						
Will be valuable to future generations						
Many people in Canada value it even though they may never personally see one						
Other (please specify):						

3. Do you have additional reasons why you **support the legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations)?

4. If you **do not support legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations), please tell us why.

5. If adding Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations) to the SARA List will have a negative effect on you or your activities, please let us know how you could change your activities to reduce the impact?

6. Please add any other comments or concerns (include additional sheets, if necessary) you would like to be considered.

The following questions are optional:

7. Did this consultation workbook help you:

a) Understand how the listing process under the SARA works?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) Understand the important issues concerning Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

c) Provide an effective way to communicate your views on the potential listing Lake Sturgeon (Western Hudson Bay populations) to DFO?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Lake Sturgeon (DU1 – Western Hudson Bay populations) Questionnaire

d) What changes or additions can we make to this workbook to make it more easily understood and user friendly?

8. We would like to get an idea of how well you understand the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA). Please tell us how familiar you are with SARA:

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Quite well
- ☐ Expert

9. Which sector(s) do you represent? Check all that apply.

- ☐ General public
- ☐ Aboriginal organization
- ☐ Aboriginal community
- ☐ Academic community
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Commercial Fishing/Processing/Sales
- ☐ Environmental organization
- ☐ First Nation
- ☐ Farming
- ☐ Forestry
- ☐ Government (please state level) _____
- ☐ Hydroelectric power generation
- ☐ Industry or manufacturing
- ☐ Oil and gas
- ☐ Private sector – other (please indicate) _____
- ☐ Professional services
- ☐ Stewardship group

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY April 25, 2008

Lake Sturgeon (DU2 – Saskatchewan River populations) Questionnaire

Species of interest: Lake Sturgeon (DU2 - Saskatchewan River populations)

Your name (optional):

Your Organization/Community/First Nation affiliation (Optional):

1a) Are you in favour of the Government of Canada adding the Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations) to the SARA List?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) If 'Yes' or 'No', please let us know why

c) If 'Undecided', please tell us why

2. Why is listing or not listing Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations) important to you?

Please choose an option that best reflects your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	I have no opinion
Has social and/or cultural significance (e.g. traditional purposes) to my community						
Is an important part of the Aboriginal or Canadian heritage						
Is or was an important subsistence food source						

Lake Sturgeon (DU2 – Saskatchewan River populations) Questionnaire

Has economic value (e.g. recreational or commercial fishery)						
Provides job opportunities (e.g. tourism) to the local economy						
Plays an important role in maintaining a healthy freshwater ecosystem						
Will be valuable to future generations						
Many people in Canada value it even though they may never personally see one						
Other (please specify):						

3. Do you have additional reasons why you **support the legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations)?

4. If you **do not support legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations), please tell us why.

5. If adding Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations) to the SARA List will have a negative effect on you or your activities, please let us know how you could change your activities to reduce the impact?

6. Please add any other comments or concerns (include additional sheets, if necessary) you would like to be considered.

The following questions are optional:

7. Did this consultation workbook help you:

a) Understand how the listing process under the SARA works?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) Understand the important issues concerning Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

c) Provide an effective way to communicate your views on the potential listing Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan River populations) to DFO?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Lake Sturgeon (DU2 – Saskatchewan River populations) Questionnaire

d) What changes or additions can we make to this workbook to make it more easily understood and user friendly?

8. We would like to get an idea of how well you understand the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA). Please tell us how familiar you are with SARA:

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Quite well
- ☐ Expert

9. Which sector(s) do you represent? Check all that apply.

- ☐ General public
- ☐ Aboriginal organization
- ☐ Aboriginal community
- ☐ Academic community
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Commercial Fishing/Processing/Sales
- ☐ Environmental organization
- ☐ First Nation
- ☐ Farming
- ☐ Forestry
- ☐ Government (please state level) _____
- ☐ Hydroelectric power generation
- ☐ Industry or manufacturing
- ☐ Oil and gas
- ☐ Private sector – other (please indicate) _____
- ☐ Professional services
- ☐ Stewardship group

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY April 25, 2008

Lake Sturgeon (DU3 - Nelson River populations) Questionnaire

Species of interest: Lake Sturgeon (DU3 - Nelson River populations)

Your name (optional):

Your Organization/Community/First Nation affiliation (Optional):

1a) Are you in favour of the Government of Canada adding the Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River populations) to the SARA List?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) If 'Yes' or 'No', please let us know why

c) If 'Undecided', please tell us why

2. Why is listing or not listing Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River populations) important to you?

Please choose an option that best reflects your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	I have no opinion
Has social and/or cultural significance (e.g. traditional purposes) to my community						
Is an important part of the Aboriginal or Canadian heritage						
Is or was an important subsistence food source						

Lake Sturgeon (DU3 - Nelson River populations) Questionnaire

Has economic value (e.g. recreational or commercial fishery)						
Provides job opportunities (e.g. tourism) to the local economy						
Plays an important role in maintaining a healthy freshwater ecosystem						
Will be valuable to future generations						
Many people in Canada value it even though they may never personally see one						
Other (please specify):						

3. Do you have additional reasons why you **support the legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River populations)?

4. If you **do not support legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River populations), please tell us why.

5. If adding Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River populations) to the SARA List will have a negative effect on you or your activities, please let us know how you could change your activities to reduce the impact?

Lake Sturgeon (DU3 - Nelson River populations) Questionnaire

6. Please add any other comments or concerns (include additional sheets, if necessary) you would like to be considered.

The following questions are optional:

7. Did this consultation workbook help you:

a) Understand how the listing process under the SARA works?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) Understand the important issues concerning Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River populations)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

c) Provide an effective way to communicate your views on the potential listing Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River populations) to DFO?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Lake Sturgeon (DU3 - Nelson River populations) Questionnaire

d) What changes or additions can we make to this workbook to make it more easily understood and user friendly?

8. We would like to get an idea of how well you understand the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA). Please tell us how familiar you are with SARA:

- _____ Not at all
- _____ Very little
- _____ Average
- _____ Quite well
- _____ Expert

9. Which sector(s) do you represent? Check all that apply.

- ___ General public
- ___ Aboriginal organization
- ___ Aboriginal community
- ___ Academic community
- ___ Agriculture
- ___ Commercial Fishing/Processing/Sales
- ___ Environmental organization
- ___ First Nation
- ___ Farming
- ___ Forestry
- ___ Government (please state level) _____
- ___ Hydroelectric power generation
- ___ Industry or manufacturing
- ___ Oil and gas
- ___ Private sector – other (please indicate) _____
- ___ Professional services
- ___ Stewardship group

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY April 25, 2008

Lake Sturgeon (DU4 - Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations)
Questionnaire

Species of interest: Lake Sturgeon (DU4 - Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations)

Your name (optional):

Your Organization/Community/First Nation affiliation (Optional):

1a) Are you in favour of the Government of Canada adding the Lake Sturgeon (Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations) to the SARA List?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) If 'Yes' or 'No', please let us know why

c) If 'Undecided', please tell us why

2. Why is listing or not listing Lake Sturgeon (Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations) important to you?

Please choose an option that best reflects your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	I have no opinion
Has social and/or cultural significance (e.g. traditional purposes) to my community						
Is an important part of the Aboriginal or Canadian heritage						
Is or was an important subsistence food source						

Lake Sturgeon (DU4 - Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations)
Questionnaire

Has economic value (e.g. recreational or commercial fishery)						
Provides job opportunities (e.g. tourism) to the local economy						
Plays an important role in maintaining a healthy freshwater ecosystem						
Will be valuable to future generations						
Many people in Canada value it even though they may never personally see one						
Other (please specify):						

3. Do you have additional reasons why you **support the legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations)?

4. If you **do not support legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations), please tell us why.

5. If adding Lake Sturgeon (Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations) to the SARA List will have a negative effect on you or your activities, please let us know how you could change your activities to reduce the impact?

Lake Sturgeon (DU4 - Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations)
Questionnaire

6. Please add any other comments or concerns (include additional sheets, if necessary) you would like to be considered.

The following questions are optional:

7. Did this consultation workbook help you:

a) Understand how the listing process under the SARA works?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) Understand the important issues concerning Lake Sturgeon (Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

c) Provide an effective way to communicate your views on the potential listing Lake Sturgeon (Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations) to DFO?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Lake Sturgeon (DU4 - Red-Assiniboine rivers – Lake Winnipeg populations)
Questionnaire

d) What changes or additions can we make to this workbook to make it more easily understood and user friendly?

8. We would like to get an idea of how well you understand the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA). Please tell us how familiar you are with SARA:

- _____ Not at all
- _____ Very little
- _____ Average
- _____ Quite well
- _____ Expert

9. Which sector(s) do you represent? Check all that apply.

- ___ General public
- ___ Aboriginal organization
- ___ Aboriginal community
- ___ Academic community
- ___ Agriculture
- ___ Commercial Fishing/Processing/Sales
- ___ Environmental organization
- ___ First Nation
- ___ Farming
- ___ Forestry
- ___ Government (please state level) _____
- ___ Hydroelectric power generation
- ___ Industry or manufacturing
- ___ Oil and gas
- ___ Private sector – other (please indicate) _____
- ___ Professional services
- ___ Stewardship group

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY April 25, 2008

Species of interest: Lake Sturgeon (DU5 - Winnipeg River – English River populations)

Your name (optional):

Your Organization/Community/First Nation affiliation (Optional):

1a) Are you in favour of the Government of Canada adding the Lake Sturgeon (Winnipeg River – English River populations) to the SARA List?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) If 'Yes' or 'No', please let us know why

c) If 'Undecided', please tell us why

2. Why is listing or not listing Lake Sturgeon (Winnipeg River – English River populations) important to you?

Please choose an option that best reflects your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	I have no opinion
Has social and/or cultural significance (e.g. traditional purposes) to my community						
Is an important part of the Aboriginal or Canadian heritage						
Is or was an important subsistence food source						

Lake Sturgeon (DU5 - Winnipeg River - English River populations) Questionnaire

Has economic value (e.g. recreational or commercial fishery)						
Provides job opportunities (e.g. tourism) to the local economy						
Plays an important role in maintaining a healthy freshwater ecosystem						
Will be valuable to future generations						
Many people in Canada value it even though they may never personally see one						
Other (please specify):						

3. Do you have additional reasons why you **support the legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Winnipeg River – English River populations)?

4. If you **do not support legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Winnipeg River – English River populations), please tell us why.

5. If adding Lake Sturgeon (Winnipeg River – English River populations) to the SARA List will have a negative effect on you or your activities, please let us know how you could change your activities to reduce the impact?

6. Please add any other comments or concerns (include additional sheets, if necessary) you would like to be considered.

The following questions are optional:

7. Did this consultation workbook help you:

a) Understand how the listing process under the SARA works?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) Understand the important issues concerning Lake Sturgeon (Winnipeg River – English River populations)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

c) Provide an effective way to communicate your views on the potential listing Lake Sturgeon (Winnipeg River – English River populations) to DFO?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Lake Sturgeon (DU5 - Winnipeg River - English River populations) Questionnaire

d) What changes or additions can we make to this workbook to make it more easily understood and user friendly?

8. We would like to get an idea of how well you understand the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA). Please tell us how familiar you are with SARA:

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Very little
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Quite well
- ☐ Expert

9. Which sector(s) do you represent? Check all that apply.

- ☐ General public
- ☐ Aboriginal organization
- ☐ Aboriginal community
- ☐ Academic community
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Commercial Fishing/Processing/Sales
- ☐ Environmental organization
- ☐ First Nation
- ☐ Farming
- ☐ Forestry
- ☐ Government (please state level) _____
- ☐ Hydroelectric power generation
- ☐ Industry or manufacturing
- ☐ Oil and gas
- ☐ Private sector – other (please indicate) _____
- ☐ Professional services
- ☐ Stewardship group

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY April 25, 2008

Lake Sturgeon (DU6 – Lake-of-the-Woods-Rainy River populations)
Questionnaire

Species of interest: Lake Sturgeon (DU6 - Lake-of-the Woods – Rainy River populations)

Your name (optional):

Your Organization/Community/First Nation affiliation (Optional):

1a) Are you in favour of the Government of Canada adding the Lake Sturgeon (Lake-of-the Woods – Rainy River populations) to the SARA List?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) If 'Yes' or 'No', please let us know why

c) If 'Undecided', please tell us why

2. Why is listing or not listing Lake Sturgeon (Lake-of-the Woods – Rainy River populations) important to you?

Please choose an option that best reflects your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	I have no opinion
Has social and/or cultural significance (e.g. traditional purposes) to my community						
Is an important part of the Aboriginal or Canadian heritage						
Is or was an important subsistence food source						

Lake Sturgeon (DU6 – Lake-of-the-Woods-Rainy River populations)
Questionnaire

Has economic value (e.g. recreational or commercial fishery)						
Provides job opportunities (e.g. tourism) to the local economy						
Plays an important role in maintaining a healthy freshwater ecosystem						
Will be valuable to future generations						
Many people in Canada value it even though they may never personally see one						
Other (please specify):						

3. Do you have additional reasons why you **support the legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Lake-of-the Woods – Rainy River populations)?

4. If you **do not support legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Lake-of-the Woods – Rainy River populations), please tell us why.

5. If adding Lake Sturgeon (Lake-of-the Woods – Rainy River populations) to the SARA List will have a negative effect on you or your activities, please let us know how you could change your activities to reduce the impact?

Lake Sturgeon (DU6 – Lake-of-the-Woods-Rainy River populations)
Questionnaire

6. Please add any other comments or concerns (include additional sheets, if necessary) you would like to be considered.

The following questions are optional:

7. Did this consultation workbook help you:

a) Understand how the listing process under the SARA works?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) Understand the important issues concerning Lake Sturgeon (Lake-of-the Woods – Rainy River populations)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

c) Provide an effective way to communicate your views on the potential listing Lake Sturgeon (Lake-of-the Woods – Rainy River populations) to DFO?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Lake Sturgeon (DU6 – Lake-of-the-Woods-Rainy River populations)
Questionnaire

d) What changes or additions can we make to this workbook to make it more easily understood and user friendly?

8. We would like to get an idea of how well you understand the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA). Please tell us how familiar you are with SARA:

- _____ Not at all
- _____ Very little
- _____ Average
- _____ Quite well
- _____ Expert

9. Which sector(s) do you represent? Check all that apply.

- ___ General public
- ___ Aboriginal organization
- ___ Aboriginal community
- ___ Academic community
- ___ Agriculture
- ___ Commercial Fishing/Processing/Sales
- ___ Environmental organization
- ___ First Nation
- ___ Farming
- ___ Forestry
- ___ Government (please state level) _____
- ___ Hydroelectric power generation
- ___ Industry or manufacturing
- ___ Oil and gas
- ___ Private sector – other (please indicate) _____
- ___ Professional services
- ___ Stewardship group

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY April 25, 2008

Lake Sturgeon (DU7 - Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations)
Questionnaire

Species of interest: Lake Sturgeon (DU7 - Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations)

Your name (optional):

Your Organization/Community/First Nation affiliation (Optional):

1a) Are you in favour of the Government of Canada adding the Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations) to the SARA List?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) If 'Yes' or 'No', please let us know why

c) If 'Undecided', please tell us why

2. Why is listing or not listing Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations) important to you?

Please choose an option that best reflects your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	I have no opinion
Has social and/or cultural significance (e.g. traditional purposes) to my community						
Is an important part of the Aboriginal or Canadian heritage						
Is or was an important subsistence food source						

Lake Sturgeon (DU7 - Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations)
Questionnaire

Has economic value (e.g. recreational or commercial fishery)						
Provides job opportunities (e.g. tourism) to the local economy						
Plays an important role in maintaining a healthy freshwater ecosystem						
Will be valuable to future generations						
Many people in Canada value it even though they may never personally see one						
Other (please specify):						

3. Do you have additional reasons why you **support the legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations)?

4. If you **do not support legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations), please tell us why.

5. If adding Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations) to the SARA List will have a negative effect on you or your activities, please let us know how you could change your activities to reduce the impact?

Lake Sturgeon (DU7 - Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations)
Questionnaire

6. Please add any other comments or concerns (include additional sheets, if necessary) you would like to be considered.

The following questions are optional:

7. Did this consultation workbook help you:

a) Understand how the listing process under the SARA works?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) Understand the important issues concerning Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

c) Provide an effective way to communicate your views on the potential listing Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations) to DFO?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Lake Sturgeon (DU7 - Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations)
Questionnaire

d) What changes or additions can we make to this workbook to make it more easily understood and user friendly?

8. We would like to get an idea of how well you understand the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA). Please tell us how familiar you are with SARA:

- _____ Not at all
- _____ Very little
- _____ Average
- _____ Quite well
- _____ Expert

9. Which sector(s) do you represent? Check all that apply.

- _____ General public
- _____ Aboriginal organization
- _____ Aboriginal community
- _____ Academic community
- _____ Agriculture
- _____ Commercial Fishing/Processing/Sales
- _____ Environmental organization
- _____ First Nation
- _____ Farming
- _____ Forestry
- _____ Government (please state level) _____
- _____ Hydroelectric power generation
- _____ Industry or manufacturing
- _____ Oil and gas
- _____ Private sector – other (please indicate) _____
- _____ Professional services
- _____ Stewardship group

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY April 25, 2008

Lake Sturgeon (DU8 – Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations)
Questionnaire

Species of interest: Lake Sturgeon (DU8 - Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations)

Your name (optional):

Your Organization/Community/First Nation affiliation (Optional):

1a) Are you in favour of the Government of Canada adding the Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations) to the SARA List?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) If 'Yes' or 'No', please let us know why

c) If 'Undecided', please tell us why

2. Why is listing or not listing Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations) important to you?

Please choose an option that best reflects your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	I have no opinion
Has social and/or cultural significance (e.g. traditional purposes) to my community						
Is an important part of the Aboriginal or Canadian heritage						
Is or was an important subsistence food source						

Lake Sturgeon (DU8 – Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations)

Questionnaire

Has economic value (e.g. recreational or commercial fishery)						
Provides job opportunities (e.g. tourism) to the local economy						
Plays an important role in maintaining a healthy freshwater ecosystem						
Will be valuable to future generations						
Many people in Canada value it even though they may never personally see one						
Other (please specify):						

3. Do you have additional reasons why you **support the legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations)?

4. If you **do not support legal listing** of Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations), please tell us why.

5. If adding Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations) to the SARA List will have a negative effect on you or your activities, please let us know how you could change your activities to reduce the impact?

Lake Sturgeon (DU8 – Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations)
Questionnaire

6. Please add any other comments or concerns (include additional sheets, if necessary) you would like to be considered.

The following questions are optional:

7. Did this consultation workbook help you:

a) Understand how the listing process under the SARA works?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

b) Understand the important issues concerning Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

c) Provide an effective way to communicate your views on the potential listing Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations) to DFO?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Lake Sturgeon (DU8 – Great Lakes – Western St. Lawrence populations)
Questionnaire

d) What changes or additions can we make to this workbook to make it more easily understood and user friendly?

8. We would like to get an idea of how well you understand the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA). Please tell us how familiar you are with SARA:

- _____ Not at all
- _____ Very little
- _____ Average
- _____ Quite well
- _____ Expert

9. Which sector(s) do you represent? Check all that apply.

- ___ General public
- ___ Aboriginal organization
- ___ Aboriginal community
- ___ Academic community
- ___ Agriculture
- ___ Commercial Fishing/Processing/Sales
- ___ Environmental organization
- ___ First Nation
- ___ Farming
- ___ Forestry
- ___ Government (please state level) _____
- ___ Hydroelectric power generation
- ___ Industry or manufacturing
- ___ Oil and gas
- ___ Private sector – other (please indicate) _____
- ___ Professional services
- ___ Stewardship group

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