

Response Statement - Pugnose Shiner

December 18, 2013

Common Name: Pugnose Shiner

Scientific Name: *Notropis anogenus*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Threatened

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC re-assessment of the Pugnose Shiner to the Governor in Council (GiC) as soon as possible after the close of the normal consultation period. This species is currently on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Endangered. The Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Ontario, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Pugnose Shiner should have its Schedule 1 status of Endangered changed to Threatened.

Once a species has been assessed by COSEWIC, further steps must be undertaken before it is added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information on this process, please view [The Species Listing Process Under SARA](#).

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: The species has a small area of occupancy and consists of numerous small populations, many of which may not be viable. At least two populations have been extirpated. Habitat degradation and loss continues to threaten populations, particularly in the western part of their distribution in the Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie watersheds.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:

Ontario

Other applicable legislation: Fisheries are managed and fish habitat is protected under the *Fisheries Act*. When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation.

Conservation activities underway: The Pugnose Shiner is currently listed as Endangered under SARA and the Ontario Endangered Species Act. A recovery strategy for the Pugnose Shiner was completed in 2012 and includes recovery actions required to ensure the continued survival of this species in Canada. Several recovery actions have been ongoing in recent years, including population surveys. The Pugnose Shiner is also included in ecosystem-based recovery programs for the Essex-Erie region and the Ausable River. Stewardship and awareness initiatives have been developed by these ecosystem-based recovery teams and are ongoing. Funds from the Habitat Stewardship Program have been provided annually to participating conservation authorities to promote stewardship activities outlined in these two ecosystem-based recovery strategies. Activities supported under these programs focus on increasing landowner awareness of species at risk as well as the reduction of sediment and nutrient loading through the promotion of Best Management Practices to improve habitat conditions.