

Response Statement - River Redhorse

January 11, 2017

Common Name: River Redhorse

Scientific Name: *Moxostoma carinatum*

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

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The above assessment confirms the classification of the River Redhorse on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Special Concern. Activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes of, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This freshwater fish species occurs in rivers in densely populated regions of Ontario and Québec. Although collected at new locations in both Ontario and Québec, the species has likely been extirpated from several rivers within its range. It comes close to meeting Threatened criteria due to a small area of occupancy and relatively few locations. Its persistence is limited by barriers to movement, altered flow regimes, turbidity, eutrophication and habitat deterioration from agriculture and industrial activities. The species may become Threatened if these threats are neither reversed nor managed with demonstrable effectiveness.

Occurrence: Ontario, Quebec

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Other applicable legislation: Protected under the Fisheries Protection and Pollution Prevention provisions of 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: A management plan for the River Redhorse has been developed and was posted as proposed on August 19th, 2016; a finalized document will be completed in the coming months. In Ontario, over the past several years, River Redhorse has received ongoing benefit from ecosystem-based recovery programs for the Ausable, Grand, and Thames rivers. Recovery activities implemented include research and monitoring programs and active stewardship and outreach/awareness programs to reduce identified threats. Funding for these actions is supported by the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk. In addition, the ongoing implementation of recovery strategies for several other species at risk fishes (with distributions that overlap with River Redhorse) has benefitted River Redhorse. In Quebec, several initiatives, including some research, have been undertaken that benefit threatened fishes. Since the River Redhorse is sympatric with the Copper Redhorse, the River Redhorse benefits from the protection and recovery measures put in place and the knowledge being gained through various works about this globally unique species. Other measures are aimed at multiple species at risk, including the River Redhorse, such as: surveys on the Richelieu River and the Ottawa River; stewardship and awareness activities in the Pierre-Étienne-Fortin Wildlife Preserve and the islands of Jeannotte and aux Cerfs; and, follow-up work that is being conducted to collect new information on several species at risk on the Vianney-Legendre Fishway, which was built to restore free passage of fishes in the Richelieu River and provide access to the Chambly spawning grounds.