

# Response Statement - Atlantic Salmon, Anticosti Island population

December 8, 2011

**Common Name:** Atlantic Salmon, Anticosti Island population

**Scientific Name:** *Salmo salar*

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

**How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment:** The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will undertake consultations with the government of Quebec, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Atlantic Salmon, Anticosti Island population, should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Endangered. The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Atlantic Salmon, Anticosti Island population, to the Governor in Council upon completion of consultations.

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:** This species requires rivers or streams that are generally clear, cool and well-oxygenated for reproduction and the first few years of rearing, but undertakes lengthy feeding migrations in the North Atlantic Ocean as older juveniles and adults. This population breeds in rivers on Anticosti Island. Small (one-sea-winter) and large (multi-sea-winter) fish have both declined over 3 generations, approximately 32% and 49%, respectively, for a net decline of all mature individuals of about 40%. The population size is small, about 2,400 individuals in 2008. As is the case for most populations of the species, poor marine survival related to substantial but incompletely understood changes in marine ecosystems is a concern.

**Occurrence:** Quebec, Atlantic Ocean

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

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

Quebec

**Applicable federal legislation:** Fisheries are managed and fish and fish habitat are protected under the *Fisheries Act*.

**Conservation activities underway:** In Quebec under the *Fisheries Act*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has delegated management of the fishing of freshwater, anadromous and catadromous species to the province. The Government of Quebec has implemented sport fishing management measures. There is no commercial fishery. Atlantic salmon habitat is also protected under the *Fisheries Act*.