

# Response Statement - Silver Shiner

*December 8, 2011*

**Common Name:** Silver Shiner

**Scientific Name:** *Notropis photogenis*

**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 Fisheries and Oceans will undertake consultations with the government of Ontario, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Silver Shiner should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Threatened. The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Silver Shiner 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 small riverine fish is found at fewer than 10 locations and has a small area of occupancy. The susceptibility of the species to continuing habitat loss and degradation with increasing development pressure resulted in an increase in status.

**Occurrence:** Ontario

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

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

Ontario

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

**Conservation activities underway:** Silver Shiner is currently listed as special concern under the Ontario's Endangered Species Act. The Silver Shiner is a species considered under the Grand River Recovery Plan and the Thames River Recovery Plan, both of which are ecosystem based recovery plans. The Thames River recovery team has written a synthesis report that describes the distribution of aquatic species at risk in the watershed, habitat quality issues and threats to species at risk. The aim of the recovery plan is to enhance or restore water quality and aquatic habitat by reducing siltation, nutrient loadings and toxic contamination and reducing impacts of altered water flow. A map of zones with high soil erosion potential has been created for the upper Thames River to help the recovery team target remediation in areas that have a high potential for generating sediment that affects species at risk habitat. Most of the land adjacent to the Thames River is privately owned. The Thames River recovery team facilitates private landowner stewardship through outreach and coordination with First Nations and other groups. Provincial and federal grants help farmers undertake stewardship activities that protect water quality. This species has also recently been reported in Bronte Creek and Sixteen Mile Creek. Habitat restoration work has recently been completed by local angler groups, among others, in these watersheds that will benefit this species.