

Response Statement - Silver Lamprey, Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations

December 8, 2011

Common Name: Silver Lamprey, Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations

Scientific Name: *Ichthyomyzon unicuspis*

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 Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Silver Lamprey, Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations, to the Governor in Council within three months. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will consult with the governments of Ontario and Quebec, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Silver Lamprey, Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations, should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Special Concern.

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 parasitic lamprey is found in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River basin. The lamprey is susceptible to lampricide treatments that target invasive Sea Lamprey. There are also several other ongoing threats from small dams, habitat alterations, and pollution from herbicide treatments.

Occurrence: Ontario, Quebec

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

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

Ontario

Quebec

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

Conservation activities underway: Few conservation activities are underway and not many directed surveys have been completed for Silver Lamprey in Ontario. Work on this species have been complicated by the inability to distinguish its larvae from those of the Northern Brook Lamprey (Great Lakes-Upper St. Lawrence) and the inability to differentiate these two species using genetic analyses. The Northern Brook Lamprey (Great Lakes-Upper St. Lawrence) is currently listed as a species of special concern by both the federal *Species at Risk Act* and the Ontario Endangered Species Act. Due to the ranges overlap of these two species, conservation activities aimed at Northern Brook Lamprey may also benefit Silver Lamprey. Such activities include the Huron County Stream-Wetland Restoration Project spearheaded by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, conservation awareness activities by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and general species at risk inventory work by Quinte Conservation. Protection for Silver Lamprey and its habitat is provided by the habitat provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.