

# Response Statement - Atlantic Sturgeon, St. Lawrence populations

**December 8, 2011**

**Common Name:** Atlantic Sturgeon, St. Lawrence populations

**Scientific Name:** *Acipenser oxyrinchus*

**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 governments of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Atlantic Sturgeon, St. Lawrence populations, 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 Atlantic Sturgeon, St. Lawrence populations, 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 large-bodied, slow-growing, and late-maturing fish consists of a small breeding population spawning within a relatively small area. The species is exploited in a regulated commercial fishery, but limited monitoring of the effects of this fishery make the viability of this population highly uncertain.

**Occurrence:** Quebec, Atlantic Ocean

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

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

Quebec

Newfoundland and Labrador

New Brunswick

**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 Quebec government has implemented management measures for commercial fishing in the St. Lawrence. Atlantic sturgeon habitat is also protected under the *Fisheries Act*.