

Response Statement - Massasauga, Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population

December 18, 2013

Common Name: Massasauga, Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population

Scientific Name: *Sistrurus catenatus*

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 above assessment confirms the classification of the Massasauga, Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population, which is already on Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk*. This species will thus remain on the List as Threatened and 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: The number of adults may be fewer than 10,000 and is declining because of continued degradation and loss of habitat, increasing mortality on roads and ongoing persecution of this venomous species.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Other applicable legislation:

Conservation activities underway: In November 2012 COSEWIC split the Massasauga into two populations, Carolinian and Great Lakes / St. Lawrence. The Recovery Strategy for the Massasauga is currently posted as proposed on the Species at Risk Public Registry.