

Response Statement - Little Quarry Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Little Quarry Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback

Scientific Name: *Gasterosteus aculeatus*

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 the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Little Quarry Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback to the Governor in Council as soon as possible following completion of the extended consultation period, and analysis as appropriate. During the extended consultation period the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will undertake consultations with the government of British Columbia, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Little Quarry Lake Benthic Threespine Stickleback should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Threatened.

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, robust-bodied freshwater fish is a unique Canadian endemic that is restricted to one small lake in coastal British Columbia. The wildlife species is highly susceptible to extinction from aquatic invasive species that have been observed to cause rapid extinction of similar species in at least two other lakes. Many invasive aquatic species already occur in southwestern British Columbia, and any range expansion or introduction of new invasive species to Little Quarry Lake would likely lead to the extinction of this species.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

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

British Columbia

Applicable federal legislation: Protected under the Fisheries Protection and Pollution Prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.