

Response Statement - Unisexual Ambystoma, Small-mouthed Salamander dependent population

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Unisexual Ambystoma, Small-mouthed Salamander dependent population

Scientific Name: *Ambystoma laterale - texanum*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Endangered

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Unisexual Ambystoma, Small-mouthed Salamander dependent population to the Governor in Council as soon as possible following completion of the normal consultation period and analysis as appropriate. During the normal consultation period, the Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Ontario, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Unisexual Ambystoma, Small-mouthed Salamander dependent population should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Endangered.

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: These unusual unisexual salamanders exist only on one isolated island in Canada (Pelee Island in Lake Erie) and depend on an endangered sperm donor species, Small-mouthed Salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*), for recruitment. The salamander faces numerous threats that make its continued existence precarious. These include predation and habitat modification by introduced wild turkeys, drainage activities that can cause premature drying of breeding ponds, road mortality during seasonal migrations, urban development, and recreational activities.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):
Minister of Environment

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