

# Response Statement - Plymouth Gentian

*December 18, 2013*

**Common Name:** Plymouth Gentian

**Scientific Name:** *Sabatia kennedyana*

**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 re-assessment of the Plymouth Gentian to the Governor in Council (GiC) as soon as possible after the close of the normal consultation period. This species is currently on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Threatened. The Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Nova Scotia, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Plymouth Gentian should have its Schedule 1 status of Threatened changed to 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:** This showy perennial lakeshore plant has a restricted global range with a disjunct distribution limited to southernmost Nova Scotia. There is a concern regarding potential widespread and rapid habitat degradation due to recent increases in levels of phosphorus in lakes, tied to a rapidly growing mink farming industry. Though the population size is now known to be larger than previously documented due to greatly increased survey effort, the species is also at risk due to the continuing impacts associated with shoreline development, and historical hydro-development.

**Occurrence:** Nova Scotia

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

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

Nova Scotia

**Conservation activities underway:** The Recovery Strategy and Management Plan for Multiple Species of Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry. This includes Plymouth Gentian.