

Response Statement - Bridle Shiner

December 18, 2013

Common Name: Bridle Shiner

Scientific Name: *Notropis bifrenatus*

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

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The above assessment confirms the classification of the Bridle Shiner which is already on Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk*. This species will thus remain on the List as Special Concern 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: This species comes close to meeting Threatened status with reductions in the abundance of adults inferred from declines in the species' range. Threats to habitat are most severe in the central part of its distribution in Quebec, where intensive agriculture results in substantial turbidity, sedimentation, eutrophication, and loss of aquatic vegetation. The species may become Threatened if factors suspected of negatively influencing its persistence are not reversed.

Occurrence: Ontario, Quebec

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Other applicable legislation: Fisheries are managed and fish habitat is protected under the *Fisheries Act*. When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation.

Conservation activities underway: Ongoing conservation activities: The Bridle Shiner is currently listed as special concern on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). A management plan was developed in 2011 that includes those management measures necessary to ensure the recovery and survival of this species in Canada. Several management measures are ongoing, including population surveys. The Bridle Shiner is also benefitting from the Channel Darter, Eastern Sand Darter and Grass Pickerel recovery strategies implementation, because of the various ongoing stewardship and outreach initiatives. Moreover, several multi-species surveys have been completed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Government of Quebec and several conservation organizations. Funds from the Habitat Stewardship Program are granted each year to participating conservation authorities in order to support the promotion of stewardship activities. The funded activities aim to increase knowledge about the distribution and abundance of the species as well as habitat-related needs. Outreach activities with landowners concerning species at risk as well as restoration work in agricultural watercourses are also ongoing.