

# Response Statement - Salish Sucker

**December 18, 2013**

**Common Name:** Salish Sucker

**Scientific Name:** *Catostomus sp. cf. catostomus*

**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 Fisheries and Oceans will undertake consultations with the government of British Columbia, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Salish Sucker should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Threatened. The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Salish Sucker to the Governor in Council upon completion of consultations.

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 fish has a restricted and fragmented range in southwestern British Columbia where it is susceptible to a continuing decline in habitat quality. An improvement in status from Endangered stems from a small increase in the number of known locations (from 9 to 14), including one location thought to have been extirpated, and some improvements in quality of habitat in areas subject to restoration.

**Occurrence:** British Columbia

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

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

British Columbia

**Applicable federal legislation:** Fisheries are managed and fish habitat is protected under the *Fisheries Act*.

**Conservation activities underway:** DFO and the Province of British Columbia, with input from interested parties, have developed a SARA Recovery Strategy for Salish Sucker that identifies threats to the species, population and distribution objectives, critical habitat and approaches for achieving recovery objectives. The Proposed Recovery Strategy was posted to the SARA Public Registry in March 2012 ([http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default\\_e.cfm?documentID=1942](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1942)). DFO and the Province of British Columbia also developed a draft Action Plan for Salish Sucker and Nooksack Dace in 2012. DFO and the Province of British Columbia have also been engaged on an ongoing basis in implementing recovery actions for Salish Sucker by working to learn more about threats to the species. DFO has also provided support to several habitat restoration and stewardship projects that benefit Salish Sucker through the Habitat Stewardship and Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk programs.