

Response Statement - Flooded Jellyskin

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Flooded Jellyskin

Scientific Name: *Leptogium rivulare*

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: COSEWIC has reassessed the Flooded Jellyskin, currently on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Threatened and concluded its status has changed. The Minister of the Environment will forward the new COSEWIC assessment of the Flooded Jellyskin as Special Concern to the Governor in Council as soon as possible after the close of the normal consultation period and analysis as appropriate. During the normal consultation period the Minister of Environment will consult with the governments of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Flooded Jellyskin should have its Schedule 1 status of Threatened changed to Special Concern.

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: Since this lichen was last assessed in 2004, increased search effort and a better understanding of its habitat requirements have revealed new occurrences in Manitoba, Ontario, and Québec and the minimum number of mature individuals is now estimated at 350,000. Canada is thus the stronghold for this species which has declined or disappeared from elsewhere in its global range. Emerald Ash Borer is a major threat killing ash trees that are an important host species for this lichen where it is most abundant in southern Ontario. Up to 50% of the population may be affected within the next few decades. Another threat is climate change which is expected to create drier conditions that will reduce seasonal flooding which this lichen requires to survive. It also needs calcareous enrichment, and as a result has an even more patchy distribution in the inaccessible boreal regions of Manitoba and Ontario where the number of individuals is lower but not accurately known. The predicted impact of these two threats on this lichen results in the recommended status of Special Concern.

Occurrence: Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

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

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

Conservation activities underway: The Recovery Strategy for the Flooded Jellyskin Lichen (*Leptogium rivulare*) in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.