



Hello,

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) would like to provide you with an update on the process for considering whether or not one or both of the **Atlantic Salmon (Gaspé-Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population)** and the **Striped Bass (Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population)** should be listed as Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Consultations were held in 2013 (Atlantic Salmon) and in 2015 (Striped Bass), during which we sought input from Indigenous groups, provinces, key stakeholders and the Canadian public.

The Gaspé-Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population of Atlantic Salmon was assessed by the Committee on the Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in November 2010 as Special Concern. The Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population of Striped Bass was assessed by COSEWIC in November 2012 as Special Concern.

When COSEWIC assesses a species, the Government of Canada undertakes a process to support the Governor-in-Council's decision on whether or not to list these species under SARA, or alternatively whether to refer the assessment back to COSEWIC for further information or consideration.

DFO is in the final stages of developing listing advice for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to support the Minister of Environment and Climate Change in making a recommendation to the Governor in Council on a listing decision for these species. At this time, DFO is projecting that proposed listing decisions could be announced in Fall 2021.

The listing advice that will be provided to the Ministers has been the subject of significant analysis by the Department. We have taken into consideration science advice in the form of the COSEWIC Status Report and the Recovery Potential Assessments; management scenarios that outline options the Department will take in the event of, or not of, a listing; Cost-Benefit Analyses for each of these listing scenarios; and the outcomes of consultations with Indigenous partners, key stakeholders, provincial governments, and the Canadian public.

The status of these species, as assessed by COSEWIC, has not changed since we completed our consultation processes on their potential listing in 2013 and 2015. We are therefore moving forward with the listing recommendations for these species, taking into consideration the feedback that we received at that time. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact DFO's SARA Program at [DFO.NCRSARAListing-InscriptionLEPRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.NCRSARAListing-InscriptionLEPRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Stewart  
Director, Species at Risk Program