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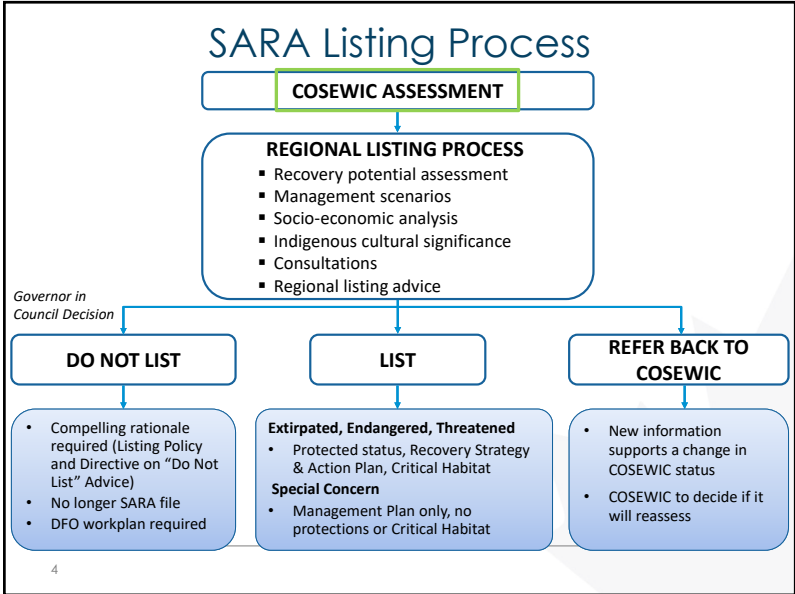
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COSEWIC

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)



- Independent advisory panel to Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- Wildlife biology experts: academia, indigenous, government, private sector
- Meets twice a year to assess wildlife

Not at Risk	Data Deficient	Special concern	Threatened	Endangered	Extirpated	Extinct
• Not at risk of extinction given the current circumstances	• Not enough information is available to determine a species status	• May become threatened or endangered because of threats and its biological characteristics	• May become endangered if nothing is done to reverse factors leading to its extirpation or extinction	• Facing imminent risk of extirpation or extinction	• No longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere	• No longer exists anywhere

Species at risk covered by SARA

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SARA Listing Process

COSEWIC ASSESSMENT

REGIONAL LISTING PROCESS

- Recovery potential assessment
- Management scenarios
- Socio-economic analysis
- Indigenous cultural significance
- Consultations
- Regional listing advice

Governor in Council Decision

DO NOT LIST

- Compelling rationale required (Listing Policy and Directive on "Do Not List" Advice)
- No longer SARA file
- DFO workplan required

LIST

- **Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened**
- Protected status, Recovery Strategy & Action Plan, Critical Habitat
- **Special Concern**
- Management Plan only, no protections or Critical Habitat

REFER BACK TO COSEWIC

- New information supports a change in COSEWIC status
- COSEWIC to decide if it will reassess

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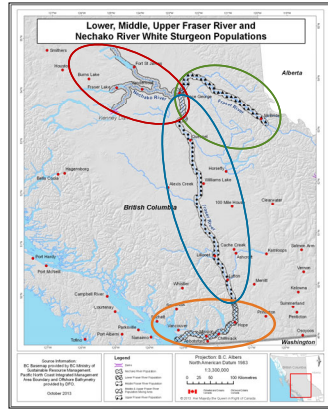
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Fraser Basin White Sturgeon Context

COSEWIC (2003) assessed all White Sturgeon in Canada as Endangered, dividing White Sturgeon in the Fraser Basin into 4 populations:



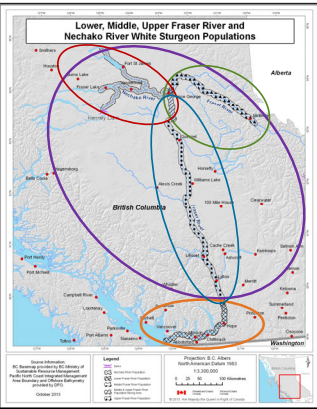
- Lower Fraser River White Sturgeon (declined for listing as Endangered in 2006)
- Nechako River population (SARA-listed as Endangered in 2006)
- Upper Fraser River population (SARA-listed as Endangered in 2006)
- Mid-Fraser River population (declined for listing as Endangered in 2006)

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Fraser Basin White Sturgeon Context

COSEWIC (2012) re-assessed White Sturgeon, dividing White Sturgeon in the Fraser Basin into 2 designatable units (DUs):

- Lower Fraser River White Sturgeon (assessed as Threatened)
- Upper Fraser River White Sturgeon (assessed as Endangered), which combined 3 populations into 1 DU:
 - Nechako River population (SARA-listed in 2006, Endangered)
 - Upper Fraser River population (SARA-listed in 2006, Endangered)
 - Mid-Fraser River population (declined for listing as Endangered in 2006)



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Upper Fraser River DU: Listing Process Steps

Process Step	Timeline
Recovery potential assessment	Published in 2016
Management scenarios	Completed in 2019
Socio-economic analysis	Completed in 2019
Indigenous cultural significance	Sought 2018-2019, none received
Consultations	Completed May to July 2019
Regional listing package	Completed
Listing decision	TBD

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Lower Fraser River DU: Listing Process Steps

Process Step	Timeline
Recovery potential assessment	Published in 2021
Management scenarios	To begin in early 2023
Socio-economic analysis	2023-2024*
Indigenous cultural significance	2023-2024*
Consultations	2024*
Regional listing package	2024*
Listing decision	TBD

* estimated timelines

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Thank you!

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Appendix

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Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA)

- Peer-reviewed, **DFO Science** led process covering:
 - biology, distribution, life history, threats and limiting factors, allowable harm, mitigation options
- Three documents published after peer review of working paper:
 - Science Advisory Report: summary of peer review, reflects participants' consensus
 - Research document: detailed document by RPA authors
 - Proceedings: Record of peer review meeting

Recovery Potential Assessment for Lower Fraser River White Sturgeon 2020

Context:
In 2002, White Sturgeon within the lower Fraser River were identified as one of six nationally significant freshwater fish of White Sturgeon in Canada (COSEWIC 2002). As a result, the six fish were assessed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). However, the Lower Fraser River White Sturgeon population was not subsequently listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). Following the Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) White Sturgeon Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA) (Hosler et al. 2020) and the White Sturgeon Recovery Strategy (RS) (ECCC 2020), COSEWIC assessed the RPA and the RPA Recovery Strategy and recommended that the Lower Fraser River White Sturgeon population be listed as Endangered under SARA in 2021. COSEWIC's assessment of the RPA and the RPA Recovery Strategy is a subsequent Lower Fraser River White Sturgeon RPA was released in 2021 but not finalized. Decisions on the RPA will be published this year. RPA was developed.
This Science Advisory Report is from the September 22-24, 2020 regional peer review on Recovery Potential Assessment – White Sturgeon, Lower Fraser River. Departmental and external participation from the meeting are included in the Appendix. For more information on the RPA, visit the RPA website at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/white-sturgeon-salmon-bleu/white-sturgeon-salmon-bleu-rpa.html> as they become available.

April 2021

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Management Scenarios

- To clearly identify the proposed actions to mitigate human threats in the event of listing, or not listing
- Most reasonable and feasible measures given best information currently available
- Informs socio-economic analysis and consultations

Baseline (current measures)

Scenario 1: Do Not List

Scenario 2: List under SARA

Actions likely to be taken after listing decision

Recovery Strategy for White Sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus) in Canada

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Socio-Economic Analysis (SEA)

- Led by **DFO Policy**
- Estimates incremental costs and benefits of species protection and proposed management scenarios
 - Regional impacts
 - Distribution of costs and benefits
 - For fisheries: economic impacts of changes in catch / effort / harvest patterns by users

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Indigenous Cultural Significance

- Standard socio-economic analysis is not considered an appropriate tool for understanding value to Indigenous groups
- SARA Program is currently working on a new framework to assess Cultural Significance of a listing decision

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Consultations

- A requirement as part of the Cabinet Directive on Regulation
- To seek input on SARA listing and involvement in the recovery of the species
- Input sought from Provinces/Territories, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public
- May be in various formats: online, mail, in-person, webinar, etc.



Recreational



Commercial



Province/Territory



Indigenous



ENGOS




Public

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Regional Listing Advice

1. Species Assessment Document (overall summary)
2. COSEWIC Assessment
3. Recovery Potential Assessment
4. Management Scenarios
5. Socio-Economic Analysis
6. Consultation Report
7. Indigenous Cultural Significance Report

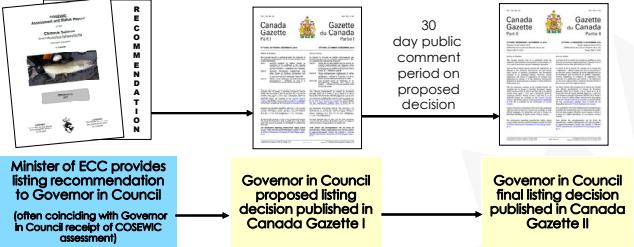


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Listing Decision

- Made by Governor in Council (Cabinet)
- Taking into consideration:
 - Regional listing advice
 - Listing recommendation by Minister of ECC
 - A 30-day public comment period (after CGI)



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