

MARINE FISH IN DEEP WATER



SUMMARY

- WITH CONTINUOUS CONSUMPTION OF FISHES, MANY MARINES STOCKS REQUIRE PROPER MANAGEMENT.
- MOST OF THOSE LISTED AT RISK BY COSEWIC DON'T GET LISTED BY SARA AND DON'T GET PROTECTION. THIS IS DUE TO COMMERCIAL CONFLICTS. THERE ARE ALSO LONG DELAYS IN THE LISTING AND MANAGEMENT PROCESS.
- AUTOMATIC LISTING, MERGING RECOVERY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, SETTING SPECIFIC GOALS AND TIMELINE AND MAKING INFORMATION PUBLIC ONLINE CAN HELP MEET THESE CHALLENGES.



SAVING MARINE FISHES

IN 2018, CANADA PRODUCED OVER 1 MILLION TONNES OF FISH. WITH NEARLY 20.4% OF FISH STOCKS IN CANADA BEING CRITICALLY DEPLETED AND WITH THEIR INCREASING DEMAND, EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THESE FISH STOCKS, INCLUDING MARINE SPECIES, TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY POPULATION SIZE HAS BEEN A MAJOR CONCERN. HOWEVER, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS FAILING IN TAKING EFFECTIVE ACTION, SPECIFICALLY FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED MARINE SPECIES DESPITE THE SCIENTISTS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS. **TO PROTECT OUR MARINE BIODIVERSITY AND OUR SEAFOOD INDUSTRY, CHANGES MUST BE MADE IN HOW THREATS TO THESE SPECIES ARE ASSESSED UNDER SARA AND HOW PROTECTIVE MEASURES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.**



WHAT IS COSEWIC?

COSEWIC, KNOWN AS COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF ENDANGERED WILDLIFE IN CANADA, IS AN INDEPENDENT ADVISORY PANEL TO THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA. THE ORGANIZATION CONDUCTS ASSESSMENT TO CLASSIFY WHICH CANADIAN SPECIES ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION USING SCIENCE, INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, AND COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE. INFORMATION FOR THOSE SPECIES CLASSIFIED AS AT RISK (EITHER 'SPECIAL CONCERN', 'THREATENED' OR 'ENDANGERED') ARE SENT TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT THEN ASSESSES WHETHER THE SPECIES SHOULD BE LISTED UNDER SARA.

WHAT IS SARA?

SARA, SPECIES AT RISK ACT, PROTECTS THE SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS THAT HAS BEEN DECLARED AT RISK IN CANADA BY COSEWIC. HOWEVER, NOT ALL SPECIES LISTED AT RISK BY COSEWIC ARE LISTED BY SARA. FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (DFO) THEN IMPLEMENT PROTECTION FOR MARINE SPECIES.

ISSUES RELATED TO SARA FRAMEWORK

MARINE SPECIES THAT ARE DECLARED AT RISK BY COSEWIC SPEND 3.5 YEARS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SARA LISTING WHERE THEY DON'T RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL PROTECTION DURING MEANTIME. RECOVERY STRATEGIES FOR THOSE LISTED UNDER SARA USUALLY TAKES YEARS WHICH SHOULD BE DONE IN 90 DAYS AND MOST OF THE ACTIONS PLANS FOR MARINE SPECIES HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED. MOST MARINE FISHES (ABOUT 70%) ARE DENIED LISTING UNDER SARA, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE CLASSIFIED AS 'ENDANGERED' OR 'THREATENED' AND THOSE THAT ARE COMMERCIAL FISHES. THIS IS MOSTLY DUE TO CONFLICTING COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES OF THESE FISHES.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Automatic listing for basic protection every time COSEWIC declared a species at risk based on biological information. This will allow for less economic biases. Details in management to minimize socio-economic losses can be developed.
- Merge recovery strategy and action plan. This will allow for smoother management process and reduce delay. This should be produced by multi-species committees that will collect information from multiple species and the habitat to assess the individual species at risk. This committee should include scientific, indigenous, political and socio-economic considerations. However, there should be detailed goals and timeline set up to reduce the delay.
- Every step of the process (which includes assessment, listing, action plan, reviews in plan, reassessment) should be made available online to increase public participation and transparency in which species get listed.

REFERENCES

Cosewic / Cosepac - About Us. (n.d.). [Www.cosewic.ca. https://www.cosewic.ca/index.php/en-ca/about-us.html](https://www.cosewic.ca/index.php/en-ca/about-us.html)

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Overview of the sector Fisheries and aquaculture production Figure 1: Fisheries and aquaculture's contribution to seafood production Seafood production volume, Million t Seafood production value, USD Millions. (2005). https://www.oecd.org/agriculture/topics/fisheries-and-aquaculture/documents/report_cn_fish_can.pdf

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