

Response Statement - Toothcup, Great Lakes Plains population

December XX, 2015

Common Name: Toothcup, Great Lakes Plains population

Scientific Name: *Rotala ramosior*

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: COSEWIC has reassessed the the Toothcup, Great Lakes Plains population, currently on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Endangered and concluded its status has changed. The Minister of the Environment will forward the new COSEWIC assessment of the Toothcup, Great Lakes Plains population as Threatened 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 government of Ontario, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Toothcup, Great Lakes Plains population should have its Schedule 1 status of Endangered changed to Threatened.

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 annual plant is known from the shores of only two lakes at the southern edge of the Canadian Shield in southeastern Ontario. Year-to-year fluctuations in water levels along the lakeshore impact the abundance of plants. Impacts from development, recreational boating activities, and manipulation of water levels have the potential to reduce the number of individuals.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

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

Ontario

Conservation activities underway: The Recovery Strategy for the Toothcup (*Rotala ramosior*) in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry. The Toothcup is listed as Endangered on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. It is listed as one wildlife species (or designatable unit). COSEWIC re-assessed the species as two designatable units; the Great Lakes Plains population and the Southern Mountain population. The Toothcup, Great Lakes Plains population, is eligible for downlisting of its Schedule 1 status from Endangered to Threatened.