

Response Statement - Caribou, Newfoundland population

December XX, 2015

Common Name: Caribou, Newfoundland population

Scientific Name: *Rangifer tarandus*

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: The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Caribou, Newfoundland population to the Governor in Council as soon as possible following completion of the extended consultation period, and analysis as appropriate. During the extended consultation period the Minister of Environment will undertake consultations with the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Caribou, Newfoundland population should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as 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: This population was last assessed as Not at Risk in 2002 when the population was 85,000. This population has fluctuated in abundance over the last 100 years and presently has declined by approximately 60% over the last 3 caribou generations. The decline was due to limited forage when the population was at high density, harvest, and predation. Various indices suggest that the population is improving but there is concern that Eastern Coyote, which has recently arrived to Newfoundland, may become a significant predator and influence recruitment such that the population continues to decline.

Occurrence: Newfoundland and Labrador

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

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

Newfoundland and Labrador