Response Statement for Lake Winnipeg Physa Snail

April 21, 2004

Common Name: Lake Winnipeg Physa Snail
Scientific Name: *Physa sp.*

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

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: Populations of this Canadian endemic are confined to Lake Winnipeg where there are continuing declines in extent of occurrence, area of occupancy and extent of habitat due to habitat alteration, human disturbance and quality of habitat. Evidence suggests that nutrients and contaminants from sewage lagoons, industries, waste storage facilities and/or landfills are contributing to the declines.

Occurrence: Manitoba

Competent Minister(s):
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Provinces and territories to be consulted:
Manitoba

Applicable federal legislation: Habitat is protected under the *Fisheries Act*.

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will undertake consultations for a period of 9 months with the government of Manitoba, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not this species should be added to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act*. Information respecting opportunities to comment and updates on the progress of consultations will be posted on the public registry. Following consultations, the Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of this species to the GIC. The Minister of the Environment will then review the comments received and, following consultation with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, will make a recommendation to the GIC on whether or not to add the species to the List. The GIC will make a decision within nine (9) months of having received the assessment.