

# Species At Risk Listing Decision Discussion

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Atlantic Salmon in the West  
River, Sheet Harbour. Photo  
by Kris Hunter

# Outline

- Introduction
- Presentation
  - What is SARA?
  - What has been said/done?
  - Where are we now?
  - What does listing mean?
- Answer any questions
- Where do we go from here?



# Introduction

- No decision has been made yet
- There is time to act
- Goal is to inform not sway
- Don't shoot the messenger
- General public perspective



# What is SARA?

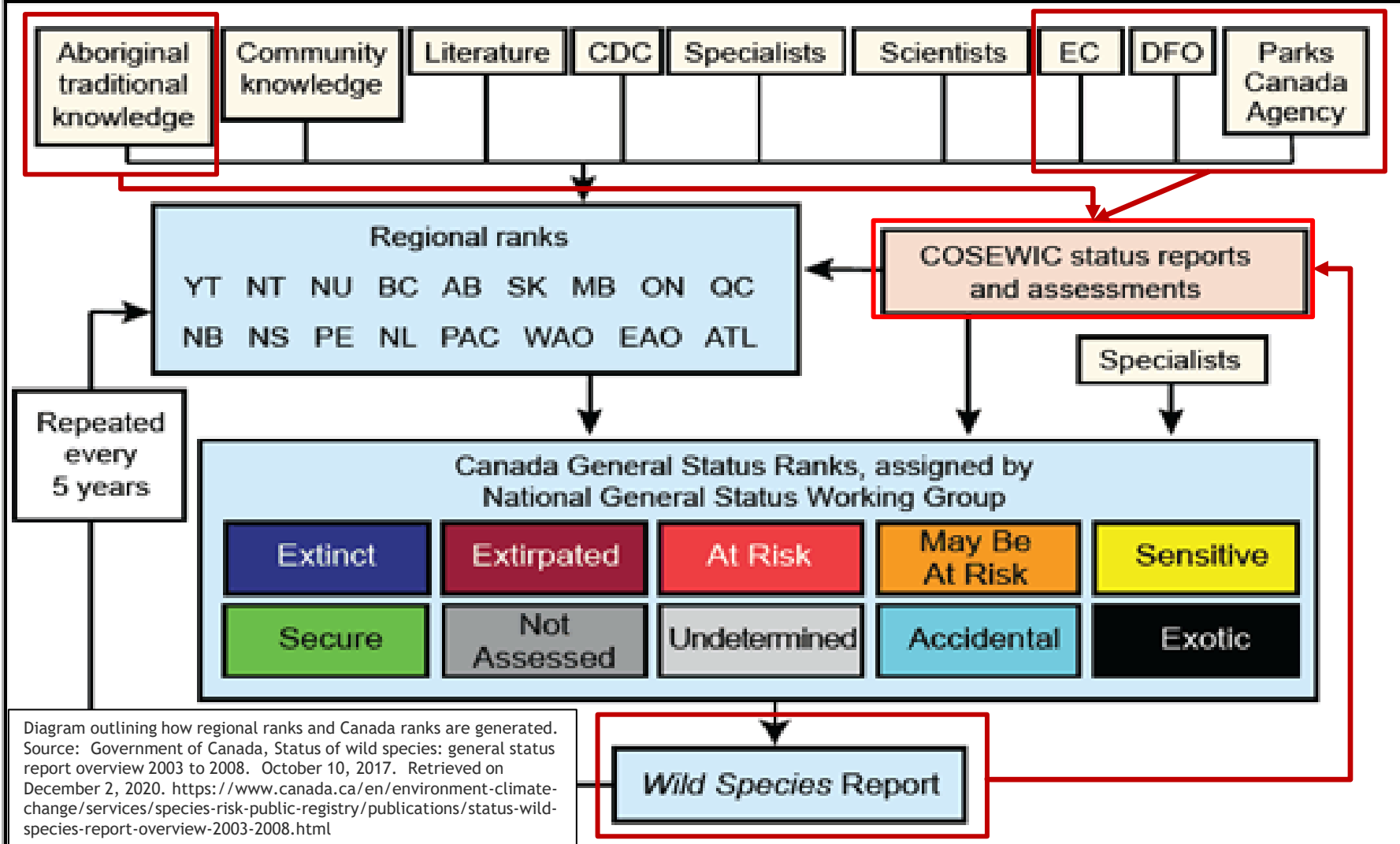
- Species at Risk Act, 2003
- Formal and legal process to protect wildlife from becoming extinct
- Outlines process for listing and protection
- Schedule 1
- Governor in Council, Minister of Environment, Minister of Fisheries, competent departments



# Species Status

- the General Status of Wild Species in Canada ([wildspecies.ca](http://wildspecies.ca));
- information derived from monitoring by provinces or territories or combined jurisdictions;
- International assessment processes;
- COSEWIC's Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee



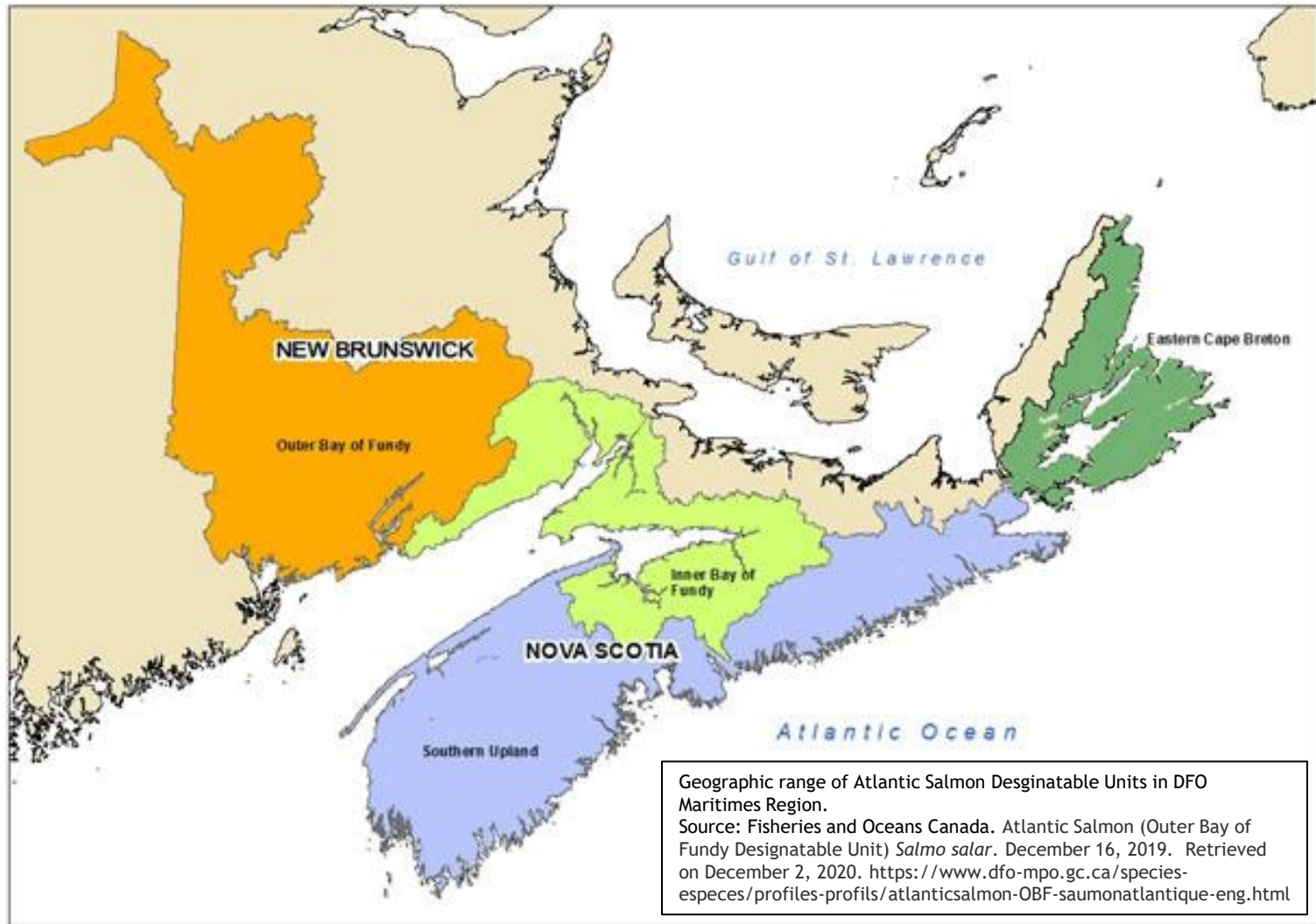


# COSEWIC

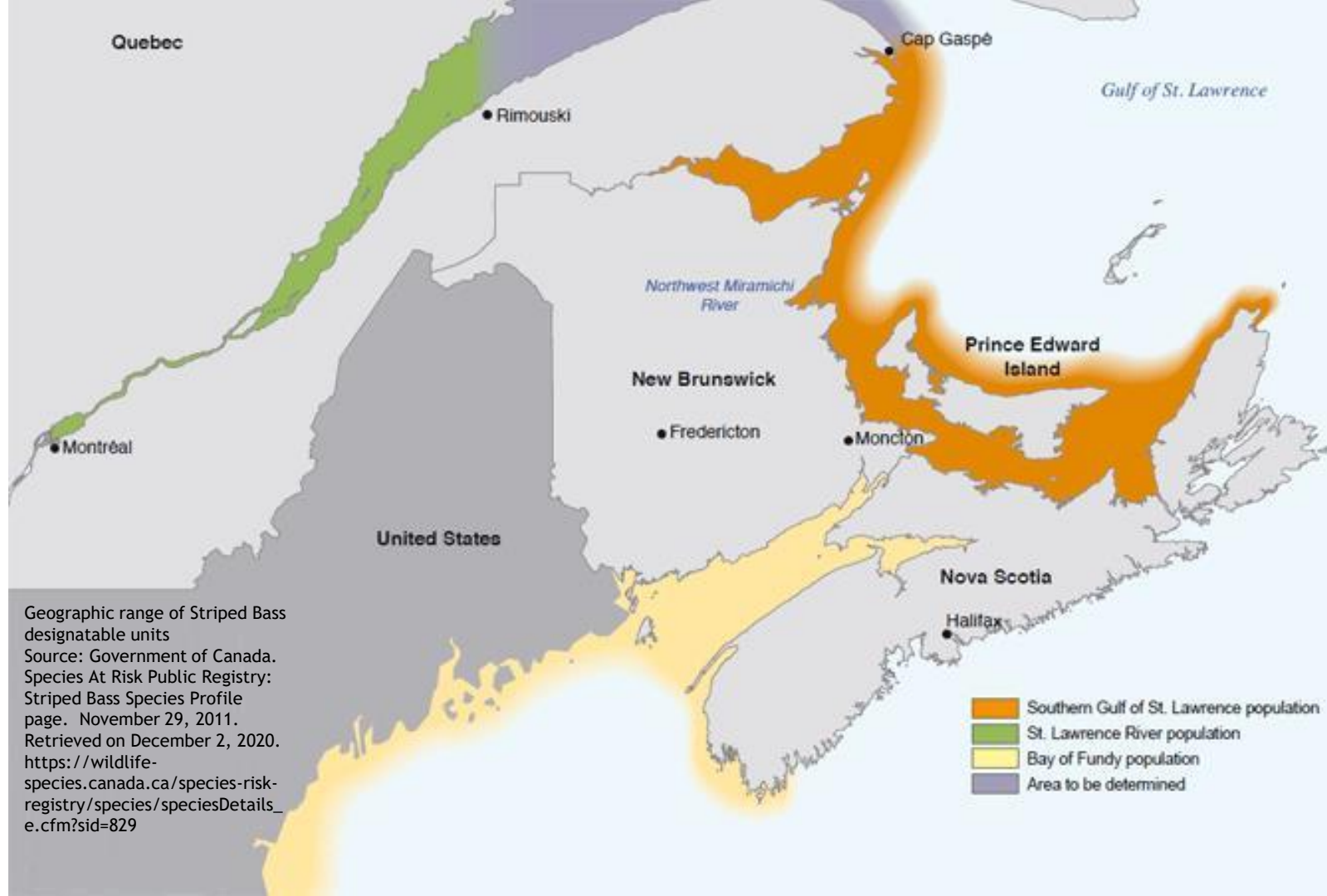
- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
- Independent Committee of Experts
- Species Candidate lists
- Status Reports - (Salmon 2011, Striped Bass 2004, 2012)
- Recommendations











Geographic range of Striped Bass designatable units

Source: Government of Canada. Species At Risk Public Registry: Striped Bass Species Profile page. November 29, 2011. Retrieved on December 2, 2020. [https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/species/speciesDetails\\_e.cfm?sid=829](https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/species/speciesDetails_e.cfm?sid=829)



## Species at Risk fall into these four categories

### Not at Risk

### Data Deficient

Not enough information is available to determine the species' status.

### Special concern

A wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Examples include:

- Eastern Wolf
- Black-tailed prairie dog
- Harlequin Duck

### Threatened

A wildlife species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.

Examples include:

- Wood Bison
- Northern Wolffish
- Short-tailed Albatross

### Endangered

A wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

Examples include:

- Swift Fox
- Whooping Crane
- Leatherback Sea Turtle

### Extirpated

A wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere.

Examples include:

- Atlantic population of Grey Whale
- Gravel Chub (fish)
- Black-footed ferret

### Extinct

A wildlife species that no longer exists.

A poster explaining the categories under Species at Risk Act.

Source: Environment Canada. A poster explaining the categories under Species at Risk Act. October 3, 2014. Retrieved December 2, 2020.

[https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ecccc/migration/sara/d5cefc12-e936-4 added=94be-6d56846739ab/poster\\_0408-eng.pdf](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ecccc/migration/sara/d5cefc12-e936-4 added=94be-6d56846739ab/poster_0408-eng.pdf)



Environment  
Canada



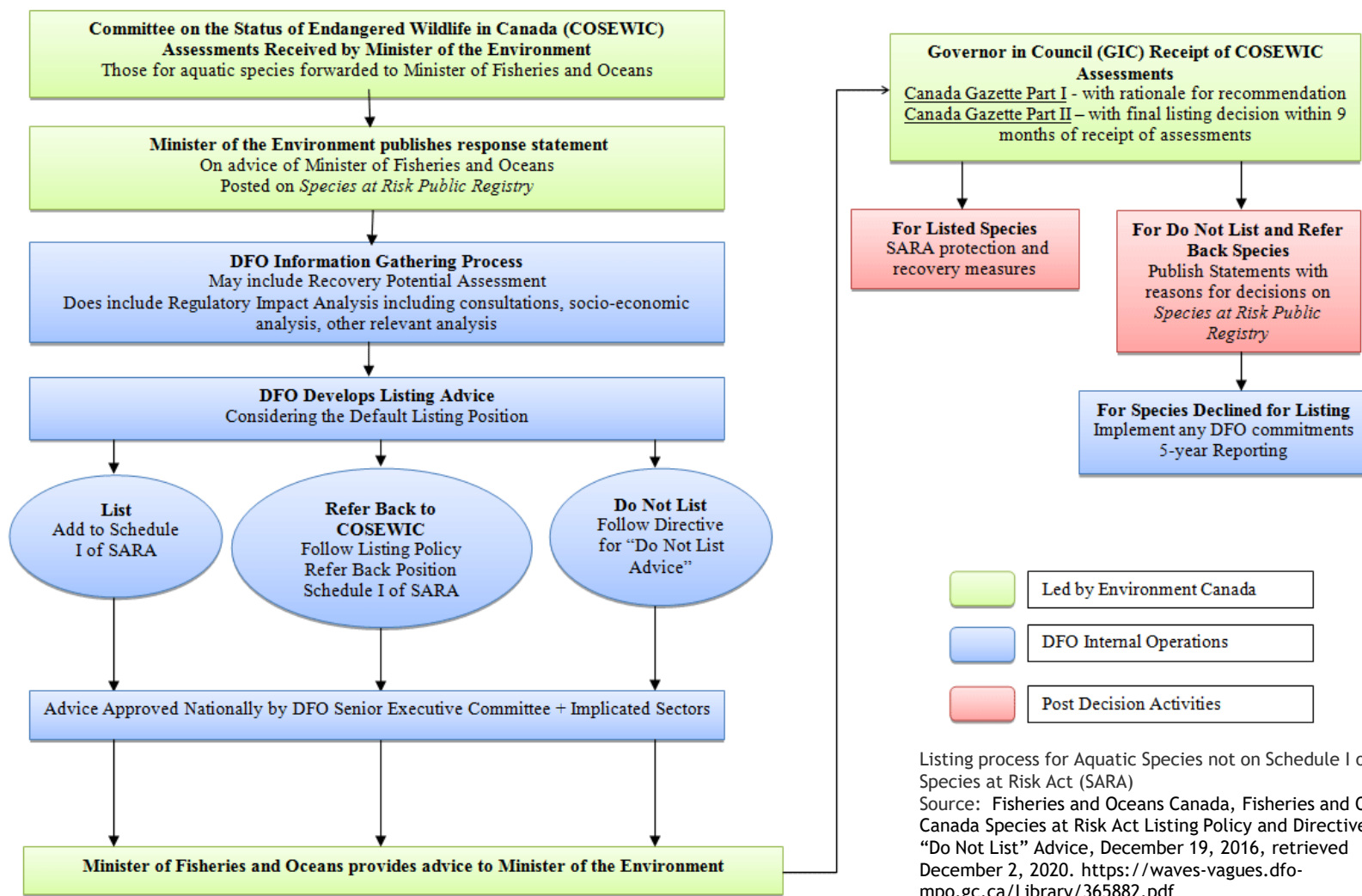
Environnement  
Canada

Canada

# Status Reports Data Sources

- Assessments (DFO, Parks Canada, Quebec, First Nations, other orgs.)
  - Reporting (anglers, indigenous, landings, by-catch)
  - Trawl surveys
  - Index Rivers
    - Traps/Nets/Swim Throughs
    - Electrofishing
    - Smolt Assessments
    - Habitat Assessments
  - Other assessments (creels, bioblitzes, targeted studies, etc)
  - Modelling
- Academics/Researchers





# What has been done

- COSEWIC Recommendations
  - Salmon: 2011
    - All 16 DU
    - 4 NAR, 1 DD, 4 SC, 1 Threat., 5 End.\*, 1 Ext.
  - Striped Bass: 2004, 2012
    - All 3 DU
    - Gulf - SC, St. Law. & BoF - End.



# Recommendations

## Endangered / Threatened

Outer Bay of Fundy- Salmon

Southern Uplands- Salmon

Eastern Cape Breton- Salmon

Anticosti Island- Salmon

South Newfoundland- Salmon

(Threatened)

## Species of Special Concern

Gaspe-Southern Gulf - Salmon

Inner St. Lawrence- Salmon

Quebec Western North Shore- Salmon

Quebec Eastern North Shore- Salmon

Southern Gulf - Striped Bass

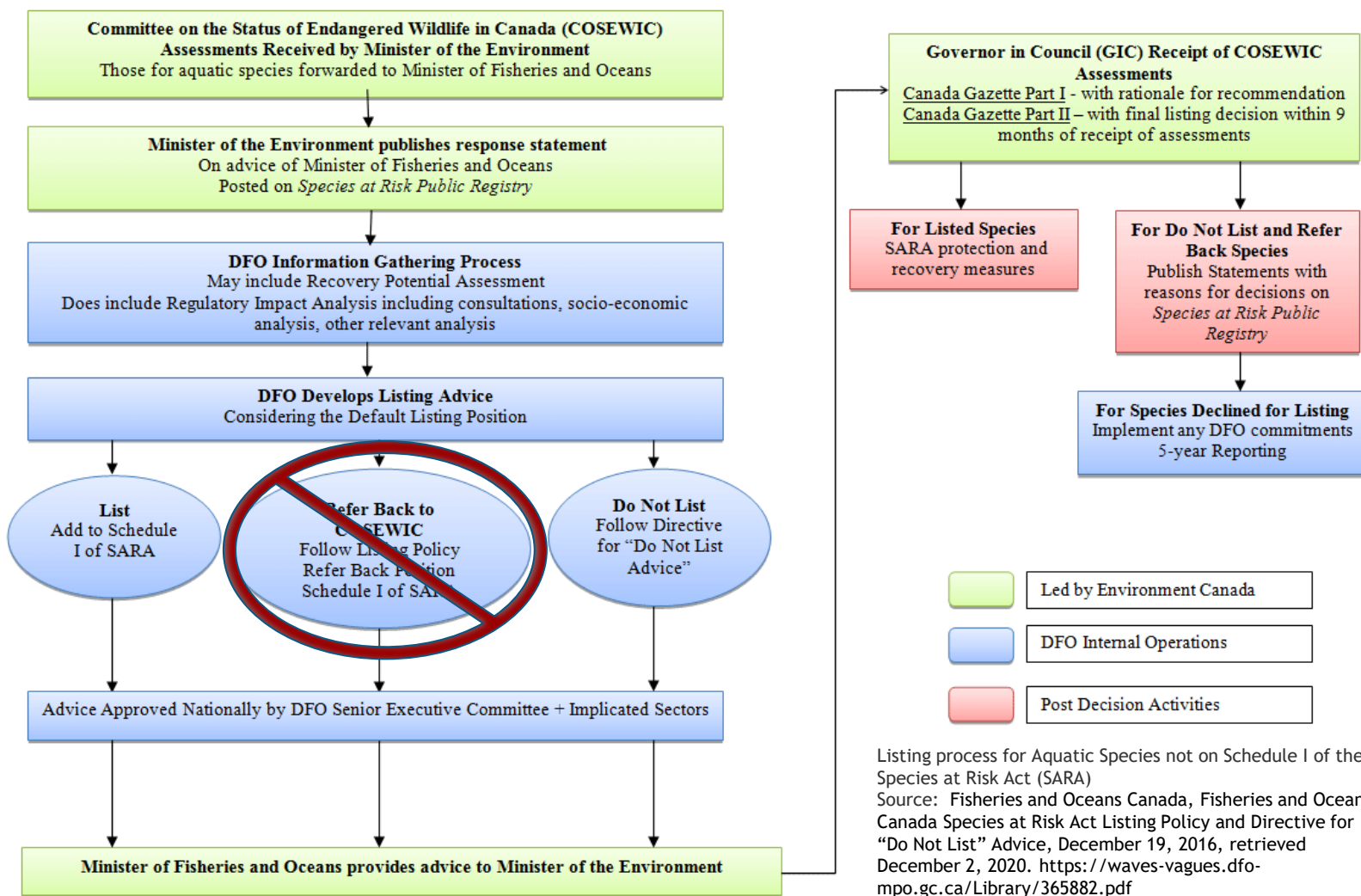


# What has been done?

- DFO Regions
  - Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA)
    - CSAS review
    - Management Strategies\*
  - Socioeconomic Impact Assessment
    - Public Consultation
    - ASF, NSSA, others made submissions
  - Internal Review
  - Listing recommendation (2014-2015)





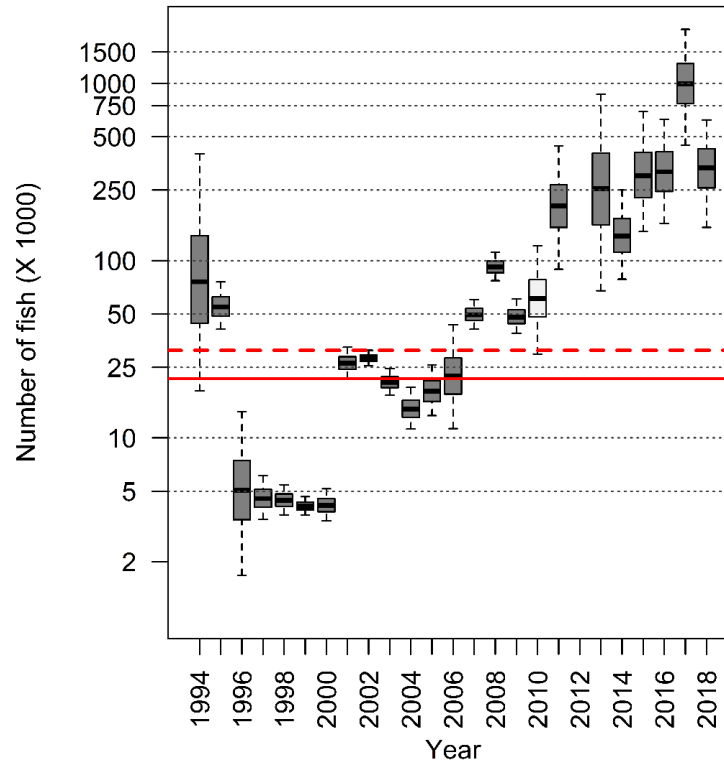


# Meanwhile back at the ranch...

- Assessments continued
- Ministerial Advisory Process
- Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy
  - Precautionary Approach Framework
- DFO priority shift
- Funding (CNFSAR, CRF, AFSAR, etc)
- Fishery Act Changes
- COSEWIC



# and of course Striped Bass



Estimated abundance of Striped Bass Spawners in Miramichi. Red lines indicate 2006 recovery objectives

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, *Update of Spawner Abundance and Biological Characteristics of Striped Bass (*Morone Saxatilis*) in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence to 2018*, March 2019.



# November 2020

- Letter sent to those that made submissions in 2014-2015
- DFO Process restarting, decision by fall 2021
- Check-in to get updates
  - Not part of SARA
  - Not reopening public consultation
  - Sarah Deller - DFO Maritimes SARA office
    - Will mark comments received from “new” people/groups
  - Comments due by Jan 15, 2021
  - [DFO.NCRSARAListing-InscriptionLEPRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.NCRSARAListing-InscriptionLEPRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)



# What else is happening

- Ottawa has been asking regions for sig. science/management updates
  - This does not change or a redo of regions previous recommendation/analysis
  - Science update - briefs
  - Unless something major happened in which case?



# What does listing mean?

## Species of Special Concern

- SARA General prohibitions do not apply
- Internal priority given
- Management plan within 3 years
  - Identify specific conservation goals/targets
- Might be able to work with existing efforts (i.e. PEI Recovery Strategy, NSSA WATER for SAR)



# What does listing mean?

Threatened / Endangered / Extirpated

- General Prohibitions apply
  - it is prohibited to:
    - kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual
    - possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual
    - damage or destroy the residence of one or more individuals





# What does listing mean?

Threatened / Endangered / Extirpated

- All direct impact activities are closed
  - Rec fish, FSC, research, restoration, etc.
  - Section 76 exemption (1 year)
- Incidental activities can be impacted
  - Other rec fish, com. Fish, aquaculture, etc.
  - Management strategies/Incidental Harm Permits
  - Trout fishery - low risk, IBoF example



# What does listing mean?

Threatened / Endangered / Extirpated

- Recovery Strategy within 1 year
- Exemptions
  - Non-directed fishery (expect some mod.)
  - FSC
  - C&R – possible BUT need proof



# Why list?

- Increased Resources & Funding (DFO & Stake/Rights holders)
- Identification of Critical Habitat
- Mandatory Recovery documents
- Exemptions and Prohibitions - more info on impacts
- Increased attention on the species



# Why not list?

- Much of \$ already available
- No other pots of gold or labour pools coming
- Restrictions on access / Extra bureaucracy
- SARA - Lack of success
- Loss of interest in species
- Timing - Fishery Act/COSEWIC



# Questions?



Kate Maione with her first fish.  
Photo by Kris Hunter

