

Here's what we understand of this so far:

The last COSEWIC status report for salmon was completed in 2011. COSEWIC has made recommendations for Atlantic Canada, divided into designated units (DU) to define certain areas/river systems. Certain DUs have been recommended as Endangered by COSEWIC (e.g., Eastern Cape Breton), whereas our region (Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence) has been recommended as Special Concern.

**SARA listings include:**

Special concern

Threatened

Endangered

Extirpated

At this point, listing a species as special concern (e.g., salmon in our DU) doesn't really change anything for fisheries, but DFO would need to come up with a management plan. Even if our salmon are not listed, DFO will still be required to review policies and regulations and come up with a recovery document. The recovery document would look at threats. Work we already have done at MSA.

Another reason for ASF's campaign 'People for Salmon' is that COSEWIC is meeting again in 2021- so there's not much point in working on the 2011 recommendations if they are meeting again this year and potentially drawing new recommendations.

Striped bass are also under review, including in our DU. The reason striped bass were once listed as threatened, and then downgraded in 2015 by COSEWIC, as it was thought they only

had one spawning ground. MSA's research has shown there are more spawning grounds, so this information has been submitted for review. ASF also has evidence that the population has exploded.

Listing a species under SARA is generally not effective, it just limits the conservation work that can happen. Luckily our DU is not under evaluation as Endangered- this could lead to the river being closed.

DFO is now examining COSEWIC's recommendations to bring recommendations to the Minister of DFO and Minister of Environment & Climate Change.

At this point, our DU salmon potentially being listed as special concern under SARA would not really change our fisheries, but my point of view is there are more effective ways to get conservation work done. This is another reason MSA having good data and research is important moving forward.

A summary of the COSEWIC report from 2011 on their recommendations is

here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-assessments-status-reports/atlantic-salmon/chapter-1.html>

More information is found

here: <http://www.peopleforsalmon.com>

If we learn anything more I will be sure to communicate to our membership.