

## Harlequin Duck

(*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

- The Harlequin Duck is a small subarctic sea duck.
- Males have slate blue plumage, chestnut sides, and streaks of white on their head and body. Their head has a black stripe with a chestnut stripe on either side.
- Females are plain brownish-grey with patches of white behind, below, and in front of their eyes.



### Provincial Distribution



### Habitat/ Range

The eastern population of Harlequin Duck breeds mostly in fast flowing rivers in Québec and Newfoundland and Labrador. Wintering habitat consists of rocky coastline, subtidal ledges, and exposed headlands. Cape St. Mary's is the main wintering site in this Province.

### Population Trends

About 200 Harlequin Ducks winter off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador as the eastern population. While population levels of this rare duck are increasing at the four key wintering locations in eastern North America, the eastern population has still not reached sustainable levels.

### Limiting Factors and Threats

In breeding habitats timber harvest and hydroelectric development may pose a threat to Harlequin Ducks. In wintering and moulting locations, fishing nets, aquaculture development, illegal/incidental harvest, disturbance, and chronic and catastrophic oiling are potential threats.

### Special Significance

This little, colourful duck occupies a unique and harsh environment similar to its extinct cousin, the Labrador Duck.

### You can help protect the Harlequin Duck:

- Report any sightings to the Wildlife Division.
- Be careful not to pollute our oceans.
- Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

## Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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