



SSAC Annual Report

2016-2017

Prepared by the Species Status Advisory Committee

THE COMMITTEE

The Species Status Advisory Committee (SSAC) was established under the *Endangered Species Act* which was passed on December 13, 2001. Its role is to review and recommend, to the responsible Minister, species status designations and re-designations based on the best scientific, traditional, and local ecological knowledge available for the species.

MEMBERSHIP

The *Act* allows for a committee of up to nine members. At the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Committee consisted of eight members:

Committee Members from 2016-17

Dr. Christine Campbell (Chair) – Aquatic invertebrates

Dr. Thomas Knight – Freshwater fish, small mammals

Dr. Paul Marino – Mosses, terrestrial invertebrates

Mr. John E. Maunder – General natural history, plants, invertebrates, vertebrates

Dr. William Montevecchi – Birds

Dr. André Arsenault – Lichens, bryophytes, forest ecology

Dr. David Langor – Terrestrial arthropods, forest ecology

Dr. Susan Squires – Rare and at risk vascular plants, conservation biology

The Committee still has one vacancy. The Committee will be providing the Minister with advice on what expertise is still needed on the SSAC during the upcoming fiscal year. The terms of five of the eight sitting members will expire October 2017.

The secretariat to the SSAC is provided by the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. The role of the secretariat is to help organize meetings and keep minutes, arrange funding for status reports, and provide other necessary logistical support to the Committee. The secretariat is managed by:

Endangered Species Program

Department of Fisheries and Land Resources

PO Box 2007, 117 Riverside Dr.

Corner Brook, NL, A2H 7S1

THE MINISTER AND THE DEPARTMENT

Responsibility for species at risk, the *Endangered Species Act* and the SSAC under the new government structure rests with Minister Steve Crocker of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. Previously the responsibility for the SSAC fell under Minister Perry Trimper of the former Department of Environment and Climate Change.

MEETINGS AND BUSINESS

The Committee met twice in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, face to face on October 5-6, 2016 and via

telephone conference on March 8, 2017. During the face to face meeting, the committee finalized the assessments and reports for Red Pine and Mummichog, submitted the reports and provided a recommendation for both species to Rita Malone, former ADM Natural Heritage. Low Northern Rockcress, a vascular plant species currently listed as Endangered under the *Endangered Species Act*, was also re-assessed during this meeting and final revisions to the report were completed in the weeks to follow.

Additional time was spent by members, outside of the confines of the meeting, developing a prioritization framework, reviewing and updating priority lists, writing and revising reports, reviewing status report templates, preparing reports as required under the *Endangered Species Act* and the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, and preparing correspondence for the Minister and ADM.

PROCEDURES

While every effort is made to convene meetings only when all members can be present, a quorum of 50% + 1 of the membership will be the minimum required to hold a meeting.

Voting on procedural matters is on the basis of a simple majority of members present but, in the event of a status recommendation to the Minister, failing a consensus, a two thirds majority of all members, whether present or not, will be required.

CRITERIA

The criteria for decisions on the level of risk for a species (Endangered, Threatened, Vulnerable, Extinct, or Extirpated) follow those of the federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which in turn are based on those of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) with minor adjustments for local circumstances and conditions. Note that COSEWIC defines designatable units (e.g. *species, subspecies, variety, etc*) as discrete and evolutionarily significant groups where “significant” means that the unit is important to the evolutionary legacy of the species as a whole and if lost would likely not be replaced through natural dispersion. A copy of the current COSEWIC criteria can be found in Appendix 1.

STATUS REPORTS AND PRIORITY LISTS

In 2016-17, two new status reports were finalized:

Vascular Plants

- Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)
 - Report commissioned in 2010-11; assessment completed in 2014-15; revisions and finalization of the report completed in 2016-17; report and recommendation submitted to former ADM Natural Heritage Rita Malone on October 6, 2016; response from the Minister not yet received.

Freshwater Fish

- Mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus macrolepidotus*)
 - Report commissioned in 2013-14; assessment completed in 2014-15; revisions and finalization of the report completed in 2016-17; report and recommendation submitted to former ADM Natural Heritage Rita Malone on October 6, 2016; response from the Minister not yet received.

In 2016-17, one additional status report was prepared:

Vascular Plants

- Low Northern Rockcress (*Braya humilis*; formerly *Neotorularia humilis*) – RE-ASSESSMENT
 - First assessed in October 2004; listed as Endangered under the *Endangered Species Act* in December 2004; status review report drafted in 2016-17; assessment completed on October 5, 2016; report has since been finalized.

Species referred back to the SSAC :

Vascular Plants

- Shaved Sedge (*Carex tonsa* var. *tonsa*)
 - Recommended in 2008 and referred back to the SSAC in 2014 because of new information from Labrador. The committee reviewed all existing data on this species during both 2016-17 meetings and deliberated on appropriate next steps. Recent records of occurrence suggest it is more prevalent in Labrador than previously known. Prior to a re-assessment there is need for further data on this species, including additional survey data and genetic analyses to clarify designatable units. Assessment needs for this species will be incorporated into ongoing priority planning.

All SSAC status reports finalized prior to 2016-17 are available on the SSAC website (see <http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/endangeredspecies/ssac/index.html>). Note that some sensitive data – mostly locational – may be omitted from this public resource. The Committee plans to have its website updated early in the 2017-18 fiscal year with the addition of the most recent status reports for Red Pine, Mummichog and Low Northern Rockcress.

The activities of the SSAC in 2016-17 largely focused on re-developing and refining lists of priority species for status assessment and developing an overall framework for making prioritization decisions. This is no easy task, given the potential large number of species at risk in the province identified through General Status rankings (1284 species; a number that does not include species that cannot be ranked due to insufficiency of available data). During the October 2016 meeting, the SSAC engaged in review of existing species prioritization methods that have been utilized in the province and on a national scale by COSEWIC. These tools were discussed for their applicability within the scope of current provincial species assessment needs in NL. The details of this process are in the SSAC Species Prioritization document.

This review process highlighted the integral role of species assessment in supporting biodiversity conservation within the province and the critical importance of empirical species data (e.g., abundance, distribution, trends) to support this process. This is particularly true for many lesser-known species

groups currently facing novel threats on a wide scale.

This prioritization process culminated in an updated priority list (Appendix 2). The updated list will be made available on the SSAC website early in the 2017-18 fiscal year. Discussions on how the Committee will decide on priorities across different taxonomic groups are ongoing. The SSAC will continue to review and update priority lists on a regular basis and revise/refine as necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Two species assessed by the SSAC were listed as Endangered under the *Endangered Species Act* in 2016-17: Northern Twayblade (*Listera borealis*) and Mountain Bladder Fern (*Cystopteris montana*). Written recommendations for Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) and Mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) were forwarded to the Minister (via former ADM Rita Malone) on October 6, 2016 and government decisions on these species are currently outstanding. Written recommendations regarding the re-assessment of Low Northern Rockcress (*Braya humilis*; formerly *Neotorularia humilis*) are included with the submission of this 2016-2017 annual report.

Recommendations made in 2016, government decisions outstanding:

Vascular Plants

- Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) – Threatened

Fish

- Mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) – Vulnerable

Data deficiency is a significant obstacle to the timely assessment of many potentially at-risk species in NL, and this is especially notable in Labrador. In 2016-17, the committee identified several potential avenues to help deal with data deficiency including:

- Supporting survey or inventory work (e.g., Bioblitzes; rare plant surveys);
- Making use of citizen science and social media (e.g., for highly visible species such as lady beetles);
- Identifying synergies with protected areas planning by the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC); and,
- Collaborating with industry and outside agencies.

The Committee will continue to seek opportunities to support empirical data collection in the province. The SSAC aims to make the most effective decisions with the most efficient and targeted use of conservation dollars when commissioning field work and status reports.

THE FUTURE

The *Endangered Species Act* had its 15th Anniversary in 2016. It has been 13 years since the SSAC provided its first status assessment to the Minister responsible. *Endangered Species Act* legislation (Section 11) states that listed species must be re-assessed every 10 years after designation, and this year the committee began a process of prioritizing status reviews for previously recommended species. A template was developed for status re-assessment reports and was implemented for the Low Northern Rockcress re-assessment. The SSAC aims to complete five other status re-assessments in 2017-18:

- Crowded Wormseed Mustard (*Erysimum inconspicuum*)
- Mountain Fern (*Thelypteris quelpaertensis*)
- MacKenzie's Sweetvetch (*Hedysarum boreale*)
- Northern Bog Aster (*Symphotrichum boreale*)
- Rattlesnakeroot (*Prenanthes racemosa*)

It is a priority of the SSAC to find authors and commission reports for two new species over the next year. It is anticipated that only one of those may be completed and assessed before March 31, 2018. In most cases, status reports for species on the priority list have to be contracted out to individuals with detailed knowledge about the species under consideration. The number of status reports that can be commissioned and evaluated will depend primarily upon the SSAC budget, author availability and the capacity of the Committee to review and assess the reports.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1. COSEWIC criteria.
- Appendix 2. SSAC Species Assessment Priority List
- Appendix 3. Chronology of assessments completed by the Species Status Advisory Committee

Appendix 1. COSEWIC Criteria

A. Decline in Total Number of Mature Individuals

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
A1. An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected reduction in total number of mature individuals over the last 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is the longer, where the causes of the reduction are: clearly reversible and understood and ceased, based on (and specifying) any of the following:	Reduction of ≥ 70%	Reduction of ≥ 50%
(a) direct observation		
(b) an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon		
(c) a decline in index of area of occupancy, extent of occurrence and/or quality of habitat		
(d) actual or potential levels of exploitation		
(e) the effects of introduced taxa, hybridization, pathogens, pollutants, competitors or parasites.		
A2. An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected reduction in total number of mature individuals over the last 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is the longer, where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased or may not be understood or may not be reversible, based on (and specifying) any of (a) to (e) under A1.	Reduction of ≥ 50%	Reduction of ≥ 30%
A3. A reduction in total number of mature individuals, projected or suspected to be met within the next 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is the longer (up to a maximum of 100 years), based on (and specifying) any of (b) to (e) under A1.	Reduction of ≥ 50%	Reduction of ≥ 30%
A4. An observed, estimated, inferred, projected or suspected reduction in total number of mature individuals over any 10 year or 3 generation period, whichever is longer (up to a maximum of 100 years in the future), where the time period must include both the past and the future, and where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased or may not be understood or may not be reversible, based on (and specifying) any of (a) to (e) under A1.	Reduction of ≥ 50%	Reduction of ≥ 30%

B. Small Distribution Range and Decline or Fluctuation

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
B1. Extent of occurrence estimated to be	< 5,000 km ²	< 20,000 km ²
and/or		
B2. Index of area of occupancy estimated to be	< 500 km ²	< 2,000 km ²
and (for either B1 or B2) estimates indicating at least two of a-c:		
a. Severely fragmented or known to exist at:	≤ 5 locations	≤ 10 locations
b. Continuing decline, observed, inferred or projected, in any of (i) extent of occurrence, (ii) index of area of occupancy, (iii) area, extent and/or quality of habitat, (iv) number of locations or subpopulations, (v) number of mature individuals.		
c. Extreme fluctuations in any of (i) extent of occurrence, (ii) index of area of occupancy, (iii) number of locations or subpopulations, (iv) number of mature individuals.		

C. Small and Declining Number of Mature Individuals

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
C. Total number of mature individuals estimated to be:	<2,500	<10,000
and one of either C1 or C2:		
C1. An estimated continuing decline in total number of mature individuals of at least:	20% within 5 years or two generations, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years in the future	10% within 10 years or three generations, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years in the future
or		
C2. A continuing decline, observed, projected, or inferred, in numbers of mature individuals and at least one of the following:		
a.(i) No subpopulation estimated to contain	>250 mature individuals	>1000 mature individuals
or		
a.(ii) one subpopulation has	≥ 95% of all mature individuals	100% of all mature individuals
or		
b. There are extreme fluctuations in number of mature individuals.		

D. Very Small or Restricted Total Canadian Population

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
D. Total number of mature individuals very small or restricted in the form of either of the following:		
D1. Population estimated to have	<250 mature individuals	<1000 mature individuals
or		
D2. For threatened only: Canadian population with a very restricted index of area of occupancy (typically < 20 km ²) or number of locations (typically ≤ 5) such that it is prone to the effects of human activities or stochastic events within a very short time period (1-2 generations) in an uncertain future, and is thus capable of becoming extinct, extirpated or critically* endangered in a very short period of time.	Does not apply	Index of area of occupancy typically <20 km ² or Number of locations typically ≤ 5

E. Quantitative Analysis

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
E. Quantitative analysis (population projections) showing the probability of extinction or extirpation in the wild is at least	20% within 20 years or 5 generations, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years	10% within 100 years

***critically endangered (used only to inform application of D2)**

COSEWIC procedures do not allow for a possible status of Critically Endangered; however, these criteria are useful in understanding whether or not a taxon is facing the extremely high risk of extinction in the wild required

by D2. Criteria thresholds for Critically Endangered are defined in IUCN (2014). Threshold changes from Endangered are as follows:

A Criterion:

- A1, $\geq 90\%$ population reduction.
- A2, A3 or A4, $\geq 80\%$ population reduction

B Criterion:

- B1, EOO $< 100 \text{ km}^2$
- B2, IAO $< 10 \text{ km}$
 - a) Severely fragmented or Number of locations is changed to = 1

C Criterion: Number of mature individuals < 250

- C1, an estimated continuing decline in total number of mature individuals of at least 25% in 3 years or 1 generation, whichever is longer
- C2, a continuing decline, observed, projected, or inferred, in numbers of mature individuals and at least one of the following:
 - a(i) No subpopulation estimated to contain < 50 mature individuals
 - a(ii) one subpopulation has 90-100% of mature individuals

D1 Criterion: Population estimated to have < 50 mature individuals

E Criterion: Quantitative analysis (population projections) showing the probability of extinction or extirpation in the wild is at least 50% within 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years.

Special Concern:

Those wildlife species that are particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events but are not endangered or threatened wildlife species.

Wildlife species may be classified as being of Special Concern if:

- a. the wildlife species has declined to a level of abundance at which its persistence is increasingly threatened by genetic, demographic or environmental stochasticity, but the decline is not sufficient to qualify the wildlife species as Threatened; or
- b. the wildlife species may become Threatened if factors suspected of negatively influencing the persistence of the wildlife species are neither reversed nor managed with demonstrable effectiveness; or
- c. the wildlife species is near to qualifying, under any criterion, for Threatened status; or
- d. the wildlife species qualifies for Threatened status but there is clear indication of rescue effect from extra-limital subpopulations.

Examples of reasons why a wildlife species may qualify for "Special Concern":

- a wildlife species that is particularly susceptible to a catastrophic event (e.g., a seabird population near an oil tanker route); or
- a wildlife species with very restricted habitat or food requirements for which a threat to that habitat or food supply has been identified (e.g., a bird that forages primarily in old-growth forest, a plant that grows primarily on undisturbed sand dunes, a fish that spawns primarily in estuaries, a snake that feeds primarily on a crayfish whose habitat is threatened by siltation); or
- a recovering wildlife species no longer considered to be Threatened or Endangered but not yet clearly secure.

Examples of reasons why a wildlife species may not qualify for "Special Concern":

- a wildlife species existing at low density in the absence of recognized threat (e.g., a large predatory animal defending a large home range or territory); or
- a wildlife species existing at low density that does not qualify for Threatened status for which there is a clear indication of rescue effect.

Guidelines for use of Extinct or Extirpated

A wildlife species may be assessed as extinct or extirpated from Canada if:

- there exists no remaining habitat for the wildlife species and there have been no records of the wildlife species despite recent surveys; or
- 50 years have passed since the last credible record of the wildlife species, despite surveys in the interim; or
- there is sufficient information to document that no individuals of the wildlife species remain alive.

Guidelines for use of Data Deficient

Data Deficient should be used for cases where the status report has fully investigated all best available information yet that information is insufficient to: a) satisfy any criteria or assign any status, or b) resolve the wildlife species' eligibility for assessment.

Examples:

- Records of occurrence are too infrequent or too widespread to make any conclusions about extent of occurrence, population size, threats, or trends.
- Surveys to verify occurrences, when undertaken, have not been sufficiently intensive or extensive or have not been conducted at the appropriate time of the year or under suitable conditions to ensure the reliability of the conclusions drawn from the data gathered.
- The wildlife species' occurrence in Canada cannot be confirmed or denied with assurance.

Data Deficient should **not** be used if: a) the choice between two status designations is difficult to resolve by COSEWIC, or b) the status report is inadequate and has not fully investigated all best available information (in which case the report should be rejected), or c) the information available is minimally sufficient to assign status but inadequate for recovery planning or other such use.

Government of Canada | COSEWIC Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

Date Modified: 2017-01-13

URL of this page: <http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=ED199D3B-1&offset=5&toc=show>

Appendix 2. SSAC Species Assessment Priority List

Last Updated March 24, 2017

*Lists are in alphabetical order and do not represent the relative priority of each species

Birds

- *Hydroprogne caspia* (Caspian Tern)
- *Riparia riparia* (Bank Swallow; assessed as Threatened by COSEWIC in 2013; new concerns warrant provincial review/re-assessment)

Bryophytes (Mosses and Liverworts)

(Further data collection is required prior to assessment)

- *Antitrichia curtipendula*
- *Mielichhoferia elongata*
- *Mielichhoferia mielichhoferiana*
- *Splachnum vasculosum*

Freshwater Fish

- No priority species identified at this time

Freshwater Molluscs

- No priority species have been identified at this time (most species are data deficient, undersampled, potentially naturally rare and threats are unknown)

Insects

- *Carabus chamissonis* (a ground beetle; only one known population on limestone barrens on the Island of Newfoundland)
- Native lady beetles threatened by the invasive alien lady beetle, *Coccinella septempunctata* (Seven-spotted Lady Beetle) and to be assessed simultaneously:
 - *Anatis mali* (Eye-spotted Lady Beetle)
 - *Calvia quatuordecimguttata* (Cream-spotted Lady Beetle)
 - *Coccinella trifasciata* (Three-banded Lady Beetle)
 - *Hippodamia tredecimpunctata* (Thirteen-spotted Lady Beetle)

Lichens

- Priority list is still under construction. Most lichens in Labrador are data deficient.
- The following epiphytic lichens in Newfoundland occur within a similar area and could potentially be bundled:
 - *Heterodermia neglecta*
 - *Lichinodium sirosiphoideum*
 - *Peltigera collina*
 - *Pseudocyphellaria hawainensis*

Mammals

- *Gulo gulo* (Wolverine; re-assessed by COSEWIC in 2014 as a larger designatable unit; recommendation requires provincial review/re-assessment)
- *Napaezapus insignis* (Woodland Jumping Mouse)
- *Ondatra zibethicus* (Muskrat)

Vascular Plants

- *Cuscuta gronovii* (Dodder)
- Six *Potamogeton* (Pondweed) species could potentially be bundled for assessment:
 - *Potamogeton foliosus*
 - *Potamogeton obtusifolius*
 - *Potamogeton richardsonii*
 - *Potamogeton robbinsii*
 - *Potamogeton strictifolius*
 - *Potamogeton zosteriformis*
- *Taraxacum laurentianum* (Gulf of St. Lawrence Dandelion)
- *Taraxacum phymatocarpum* (Northern Dandelion)
- Wetland species known for very few, well-documented locations:
 - *Hydrocotyle americana* (American Marsh-pennywort)
 - *Lysimachia thyrsiflora* (Water Loosestrife)
 - *Proserpinaca pectinata* (Combleaf Mermaidweed)

Species Prioritized for Re-assessment:

- *Erysimum inconspicuum* (Crowded Wormseed Mustard)
- *Hedysarum boreale* (MacKenzie's Sweet-vetch)
- *Prenanthes racemosa* (Rattlesnakeroot)
- *Symphotrichum boreale* (Northern Bog Aster)
- *Thelypteris quelpaertensis* (Mountain Fern)

Appendix 3. Chronology of Assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee

Common Name	Scientific Name	SSAC Assessment	Date of Recommendation:	Decision from Government Required By:**	Designated Status or Reason Not Designated:
Low Northern Rockcress	<i>Neotorularia humilis</i>	Endangered	6-Oct-04		Endangered
Gray-cheeked Thrush Reassessed June 21, 2010	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Vulnerable	4-Nov-05		Vulnerable
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	Not at Risk		No recommendation required.	
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Not at Risk		No recommendation required.	
Redwine Caribou Herd	<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i> (Redwine Population)			SSAC has decided not to assess populations but species as a whole. This assessment was never completed.	
Blowout Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela limbata labradorensis</i>	Data Deficient		Status report being revised due to new information.	
MacKenzie's SweetVetch	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i> subsp. <i>mackenzii</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06		Endangered
Rattlesnakeroot	<i>Prenanthes racemosa</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06		Endangered
Northern Bog Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum boreale</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06		Endangered
Crowded Wormseed Mustard	<i>Erysimum inconspicuum</i> var. <i>coarctatum</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06		Endangered
Mountain Fern	<i>Thelypteris quelpaertensis</i>	Vulnerable	21-Oct-06		Vulnerable
Graceful Felt Lichen	<i>Erioderma mollissimum</i>	Endangered	8-May-08		Endangered
Bodin's Milkvetch	<i>Astragalus bodinii</i>	Threatened	29-May-08		Threatened
Shaved Sedge	<i>Carex tonsa</i> var. <i>tonsa</i>	Threatened	29-May-08		Returned to SSAC for re-assessment (new data)
Cutleaf Fleabane	<i>Erigeron compositus</i>	Endangered	29-May-08		Endangered
Feathery False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> subsp. <i>racemosum</i>	Endangered	29-May-08		Endangered
Sharpleaf Aster	<i>Ocelmena acuminata</i>	Threatened	29-May-08		Threatened
Alaska Rein Orchid	<i>Platanthera foetida</i>	Endangered	29-May-08		Endangered
Gmelin's Watercrowfoot	<i>Ranunculus gmelinii</i>	Endangered	29-May-08		Endangered
Tradescant's Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum tradescantii</i>	Threatened	29-May-08		Threatened
Water Pygmyweed	<i>Tillaea aquatica</i>	Vulnerable	29-May-08		Vulnerable
Rock Dwelling Sedge	<i>Carex petricosa</i> var. <i>misandroides</i>	Endangered	29-May-08		Endangered
Oval-leaved Creeping Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> var. <i>ovalis</i>	Endangered	29-May-08		Endangered
Lindley's Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum ciliolatum</i>	Endangered	07-Oct-10		Endangered

Appendix 3: Chronology of Assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	SSAC Assessment	Date of Recommendation:	Decision from Government Required By:**	Designated Status or Reason Not Designated:
Arctic Hare	<i>Lepus arcticus</i>	Data Deficient		No recommendation required.	
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Vulnerable	07-Oct-10		Vulnerable
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia riparia</i>	Not at Risk		No recommendation required.	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Data Deficient		No recommendation required.	
Vreeland's Striped Coralroot	<i>Corallorhiza striata</i> var. <i>vreelandii</i>	Endangered	07-Oct-10		Endangered
Gray-cheeked Thrush (Newfoundland subspecies)	<i>Catharus minimus minimus</i>	Threatened	07-Oct-10		Threatened
Gray-cheeked Thrush (Northern subspecies)	<i>Catharus minimus aliciae</i>	Not at Risk		No recommendation required.	
Wooly Arnica	<i>Arnica angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>tomentosa</i>	Endangered	22-Oct-12		Endangered
Griscom's Arnica	<i>Arnica griscomii</i> subsp. <i>griscomii</i>	Endangered	22-Oct-12		Endangered
Northern Twayblade	<i>Listera borealis</i>	Endangered	25-Sep-13		Endangered
Mountain Bladder Fern (Newfoundland Designatable Unit)	<i>Cystopteris montana</i>	Endangered	25-Sep-13		Endangered
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Threatened	6-Oct-16	4-Jan-17	Response Overdue
Mummichog	<i>Fundulus heteroclitus macrolepidotus</i>	Vulnerable	6-Oct-16	4-Jan-17	Response Overdue

**The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall within 90 days of the minister receiving a written recommendation from SSAC to designate a species, give the minister approval to do one of the following: (a) designate the species under section 7 in the recommended or an equivalent category; (b) designate the species under section 7 in a different category and release to the public the reason for using a different category; or (c) make no designation and release to the public the reason there will be no designation. Section 8 of the Endangered Species Act.

Based on the legislated timeline above, a decision from Government is overdue.