

# Response Statement - Columbia Sculpin

December 8, 2011

**Common Name:** Columbia Sculpin

**Scientific Name:** *Cottus hubbsi*

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

**How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment:** The above assessment confirms the classification of the Columbia Sculpin which is already on Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk*. This species will thus remain on the List as Special Concern and activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

**Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC:** In Canada, this small freshwater fish is endemic to the Columbia River basin where it has a small geographic distribution. It is a bottom-dwelling and sedentary fish as an adult, making it particularly susceptible to declines in habitat area and quality from drought and changes in water flow. It is close to meeting Threatened status owing to its small geographic range, relatively few locations and ongoing declines in habitat quality.

**Occurrence:** British Columbia

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

**Applicable federal legislation:** Fisheries are managed and fish and fish habitat are protected under the *Fisheries Act*.

**Conservation activities underway:** Columbia Mottled Sculpin have been listed as Special Concern under SARA since 2003. Sculpin studies have been mandated under the Columbia Water Use Plan and results will be included in decisions around water management; these studies have been initiated and are underway. The studies will collect life history information in an unregulated system, to act as a control, and in the regulated lower Columbia River. The information will be collected in support of describing important habitat for this species.