

Response Statement - Brook Floater

November 25, 2009

Common Name: Brook Floater

Scientific Name: *Alasmodonta varicosa*

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 Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will undertake consultations with the governments of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Brook Floater should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Special Concern. The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Brook Floater to the Governor in Council upon completion of consultations.

Once a species has been assessed by COSEWIC, further steps must be undertaken before it is added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information on this process, please view [The Species Listing Process Under SARA](#).

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: A medium-sized freshwater mussel that is confined to 15 widely scattered watersheds in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This mussel was never abundant, usually representing only 1-5% of the total freshwater mussel fauna present. The habitat is subject to impacts (shoreline development, poor agricultural practices, and other water quality issues) with potential cumulative degradation on larger stretches of rivers. Populations appear to have been lost from two historic locations, although new populations have been found recently. Because this mussel has disappeared from approximately half of its USA locations, the Canadian population now represents an important global stronghold for the species.

Occurrence: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:

New Brunswick

Nova Scotia

Applicable federal legislation:

Conservation activities underway: No specific measures are currently underway for the brook floater, but the waterways it inhabits are protected by the federal *Fisheries Act* and by provincial regulations (New Brunswick's Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Regulation; Nova Scotia's Watercourse Alteration regulations).