

APPENDIX A. Rank and priority definitions for species at risk

i) NatureServe Status Definitions (global, national and subnational) (from NatureServe 2004)

NatureServe	NatureServe is a non-profit conservation organization that provides the scientific information and tools needed to help guide effective conservation action. NatureServe and its network of natural heritage programs are the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. NatureServe represents an international network of biological inventories-known as natural heritage programs or conservation data centers-operating in all 50 U.S. states, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.
Heritage Status Ranks	The conservation status rank, developed by NatureServe and the Natural Heritage Network, of a species or community from a global (i.e., rangewide), national or subnational (provincial) perspective, characterizing the relative rarity or imperilment of the element. Grank = global; Nrank = national; Srank = subnational (provincial) [note: T used for subspecies]
G/N/SX: Presumed Extirpated	Element is believed to be extirpated from the region. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
G/N/SU: Unrankable	Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
G/N/SH: Possibly Extirpated (Historical)	Element occurred historically in the region, and there is some expectation that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20 years. An element would become SH without such a 20-year delay if the only known occurrences in a state were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for. Upon verification of an extant occurrence, G/N/SH-ranked elements would typically receive an G/N/S1 rank. The G/N/SH rank should be reserved for elements for which some effort has been made to relocate occurrences, rather than simply using this rank for all elements not known from verified extant occurrences.
G/N/S1: Critically Imperilled	Critically imperilled because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals (<1,000) or acres (<2,000) or linear miles (<10).
G/N/S2: Imperilled	Imperilled because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000) or acres (2,000 to 10,000) or linear miles (10 to 50).
G/N/S3: Rare to Uncommon	Vulnerable either because very rare and local throughout its range, found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at some locations), or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically 21 to 100 occurrences or between 3,000 and 10,000 individuals.
G/N/S4: Apparently Secure	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range, particularly on the periphery), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern. Typically more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
G/N/S5: Secure	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range, particularly on the periphery). Not vulnerable in most of its range. Typically with considerably more than 100 occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.

ii) COSEWIC Status Definitions (national)

(from Environment Canada 2004)

COSEWIC	COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) is a committee of experts that assesses and designates which wild species are in some danger of disappearing from Canada.
Species	Any indigenous species, subspecies, variety, or geographically or genetically distinct population of wild fauna and flora.
Extinct	A species that no longer exists.
Extirpated	A species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but occurs elsewhere.
Endangered	A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.
Threatened	A species that is likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.
Special Concern	A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.
Not at Risk	A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.
Data Deficient	A species for which there is insufficient scientific information to support status designation.

iii) Conservation Priority Ranks for Aquatic Species at Risk in the Thames River Watershed (from Cudmore et al. 2004)

Conservation Priority Ranks (Thames River)	Used to aid in directing limited resources and to prioritize recovery actions. It is important to note that a low priority ranking does not necessarily equate to low conservation concern.
Possibly Extirpated	COSEWIC status of Extirpated, and/or presumed extirpated within the Thames River watershed by recent research surveys.
High	COSEWIC status of Endangered or Threatened and/or globally rare (G1, G2, G3).
Medium	COSEWIC status of Special Concern or Under Review, provincially rare (S1, S2, S3) and/or locally rare or declining.
Low	COSEWIC status of Special Concern, provincially stable (S4, S5) and/or locally stable or expanding.