



## THE HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR AQUATIC<sup>1</sup> SPECIES AT RISK

### NOW ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR 2022–2023

---

Under the Nature Legacy initiative, announced in Budget 2018, the Government of Canada is transforming its approach to species at risk conservation and recovery by shifting to ecosystem-based, multispecies initiatives. This approach includes providing funding towards the protection and recovery of aquatic and terrestrial species at risk. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for aquatic species at risk and supports recovery of these species through various programs, including the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP).

The HSP, established in 2000, provides funding for projects submitted by Canadians that contribute directly to the recovery of species at risk. To ensure the HSP is able to achieve its mandate to "contribute to the recovery of endangered, threatened, and other species at risk by engaging Canadians from all walks of life in conservation actions to benefit wildlife", DFO routinely reviews the program to best address emerging priorities related to aquatic species at risk across Canada.

HSP has two platforms for funding:

- Terrestrial Species at Risk Projects – Delivered by Environment and Climate Change Canada; and
- Aquatic Species at Risk Projects – Delivered by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

This Call for Proposals applies only to aquatic species at risk projects. For information on funding for terrestrial species at risk, please contact [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#).

#### *Timelines*

- The program will be accepting Expressions of Interest (EOI) until **November 12, 2021 (closing at 11:59pm for your region)**.
- Submission of an EOI does not guarantee a project will be approved for funding. However, submission of an EOI is strongly encouraged, particularly for applicants who have not received HSP funding in the past.
- The EOI will give you the opportunity to discuss your project and receive feedback to verify that it is aligned with national and regional priorities and program expected results.
- The deadline for full proposal submissions is **December 17, 2021 (closing at 11:59pm for your region)**.

#### **Objective, Expected Results and National Priorities**

---

<sup>1</sup> An aquatic species is a wildlife species that is a fish as defined in section 2 of the *Fisheries Act*. See the HSP Application Guidelines for more information on eligible species.



The objective of the HSP for Aquatic Species at Risk is to support and promote the conservation and recovery of Aquatic Species at Risk and their habitats by engaging Canadians in projects that will result in tangible and measurable conservation benefits.

Proposed projects must demonstrate how they align with the objective of the HSP. Further, the proposal must describe through its own objectives, activities and anticipated outcomes, how it will achieve one or more of the following expected results:

- Aquatic species at risk important habitat<sup>2</sup> is improved and/or managed to meet their recovery needs
- Threats to aquatic species at risk and/or their habitat are stopped, removed, and/or mitigated
- Collaboration and partnerships support the conservation and recovery of aquatic species at risk

The national priorities for the 2022-23 HSP are projects that focus on the implementation of:

- Priority activities described in federal recovery strategies, action plans, or management plans;
- Multiple-species and/or multi-partner projects; and
- Activities that address threats described in federal species at risk recovery documents or the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessment reports.

## Regional Priorities

In addition to the national priorities, each region has identified specific priorities that support the national priorities. These include target areas, species and/or threats ([Appendix 1](#)). The majority of aquatic funds will go to projects that address at least one of these regional priorities.

## For more information:

- General information on the [HSP for Aquatic Species at Risk](#) is also available online as well as other reference and application documents such as the [Program Guide](#), [Expression of Interest Form](#), [Application Form](#) and [Application Instructions](#).
- Please contact your HSP Regional Coordinator ([Appendix 2](#)) for additional information or assistance.

**Thank you for your interest in the recovery of species at risk.  
We wish you the best in your application!**

---

<sup>2</sup> The program defines “important habitat” as critical habitat that has been identified in federal recovery strategies or action plans or that is considered as candidate for critical habitat but that is not yet identified in a final federal recovery strategy or action plan, or habitat that is important for the species survival (e.g., spawning, rearing areas, overwintering areas, migratory corridors) but that is not actually identified in a federal recovery strategy or action plan.



### Appendix 1: Regional Priorities

Region	Species	Areas	Threats
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	<p>Wolffish Species (Northern, Spotted, Atlantic)</p> <p>SARA-Listed Sea Turtle Species</p> <p>Large Whale Species (Blue Whale, Fin Whale, North Atlantic Right Whale)</p> <p>Atlantic Salmon (South Newfoundland population)</p> <p>American Eel</p>	N/A	<p>Fisheries Interactions (i.e. bycatch, entanglements)</p> <p>Vessel Interactions (i.e. ship strikes, acoustic disturbances)</p> <p>Pollution and Pathogens</p> <p>Habitat Alteration</p> <p>Migration Barriers</p>
<b>Maritimes</b>	<p>Atlantic Salmon (Inner Bay of Fundy population)</p> <p>Atlantic Whitefish</p> <p>SARA-listed Sea Turtle Species</p> <p>North Atlantic Right Whale</p> <p>Lake Utopia Rainbow Smelt</p>	N/A	<p>Habitat alteration and degradation</p> <p>Invasive and introduced species</p> <p>Fishery interactions (includes entanglement and bycatch)</p> <p>Interactions with vessels and vehicles</p> <p>Acoustic disturbance</p>
<b>Gulf</b>	<p>Atlantic Salmon</p> <p>Brook Floater</p> <p>Wolffish species</p> <p>Leatherback Sea Turtle</p>	N/A	<p>Interactions with Vessels and Vehicles</p> <p>Acoustic Disturbances</p> <p>Fishery Interactions: Bycatch and Entanglement</p> <p>Habitat Alteration and Degradation</p> <p>Invasive and Introduced Species</p>



	Whale species (North Atlantic Right Whale, Blue Whale, Fin Whale)		
<b>Quebec</b>	Whales endangered in the St. Lawrence (Beluga Whale - St. Lawrence Estuary population, Blue Whale - Atlantic population, and North Atlantic Right Whale) Eastern Sand Darter (Quebec populations) Copper Redhorse Hickorynut  Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes – Upper St. Lawrence populations, and Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay populations)	St. Lawrence hydrographic system (River, Estuary and Gulf, including all tributaries) Montérégie	Human disturbance associated with commercial shipping, excursion and whale-watching or recreational boating (e.g. approach distance, noise or collision)  Bycatch and fishing pressure (recreational or commercial)  Habitat loss and degradation (e.g. grass-bed destruction s, shoreline artificialization or wave action)  Deterioration of water quality (e.g. sources of sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, sewage, or contaminants)  Aquatic invasive species affecting species at risk
<b>Ontario and Prairie (Ontario)</b>	Redside Dace Pugnose Shiner Pugnose Minnow Black Redhorse SARA-listed Freshwater Mussels	Lake St. Clair & contributing watersheds  Lake Erie & contributing watersheds  Lake Ontario & contributing watersheds  Lake Huron & contributing watersheds	Sediment/nutrient, contaminant loading  Habitat destruction/ alteration  Altered flows, water levels, or coastal process  Barriers to fish passage  Recreational impacts on aquatic SAR



Lakes & contributing watersheds of Upper (western) St. Lawrence River			
<b>Ontario and Prairie</b> (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta)	Bigmouth Buffalo Lake Sturgeon Southern Prairie Species (Western Silvery Minnow, Rocky Mountain Sculpin, Plains Sucker, Plains Minnow) Native Trout (Athabasca Rainbow, Westslope Cutthroat, Bull) Mapleleaf	Peace/Slave and Athabasca River Basins North and South Saskatchewan River basin Southern Prairie Region (Milk River, St. Mary's River, Qu'Appelle River) Winnipeg/Red/Assiniboine River Basin East Slopes Rocky Mountains	Habitat loss and degradation Impacts from introduced/non-introduced species Disease and pathogens Restrictions/barriers to fish passage Recreational impacts on aquatic SAR
<b>Arctic</b> (Northwest Territories and Nunavut)	Dolly Varden (Western Arctic) Beluga (Cumberland Sound) Bowhead Whale (Eastern Arctic/West Greenland) Walrus Beluga (Hudson Bay)	Foxe Basin Hudson Bay/Hudson Strait Mackenzie River tributaries/Peel River System Cumberland Sound All Nunavut waters	Unsustainable harvest Unknown effects of predators Lack of information on isolated Dolly Varden populations Struck and loss of marine mammals Effects of anthropogenic noise on movements
<b>Pacific</b>	Killer Whales (all populations) White Sturgeon Fraser River Salmonids (populations assessed as at	Fraser River watershed Columbia River watershed Salish Sea North Coast Morrison Creek Watershed	Fisheries interactions (including incidental/bycatch, catch and release fishery impacts, entanglements, illegal harvest, prey availability or unsustainable directed harvest) Physical and acoustic disturbance



risk by  
COSEWIC)

Northern  
Abalone

Nooksack Dace

Habitat degradation and  
fragmentation (aquatic and  
riparian)

Cumulative effects (including  
anthropogenic contributions to  
climate change)

Aquatic invasive and problematic  
native species



## Appendix 2: Regional Coordinators

<p><b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b></p> <p>Lynette Mulley</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:DFO.HSP-NFL_PIH-NFL.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.HSP-NFL_PIH-NFL.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a></p> <p>Tel: (709) 330-7993</p>	<p><b>Maritimes</b></p> <p>Lisa Paon</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:DFO.HSP-MAR_PIH-MAR.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.HSP-MAR_PIH-MAR.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a></p> <p>Tel: (902) 483-5495</p>	<p><b>Gulf</b></p> <p>Josette Maillet</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:DFO.HSP-GLF_PIH-GLF.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.HSP-GLF_PIH-GLF.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a></p> <p>Tel: (506) 851-2237</p>
<p><b>Quebec</b></p> <p>Jocelyne Ouellet</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:DFO.HSP-QC_PIH-QC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.HSP-QC_PIH-QC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a></p> <p>Tel: (418) 775-0582</p>	<p><b>Arctic</b></p> <p>Patricia Klotz</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:DFO.HSP-OPR_PIH-ROP.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.HSP-OPR_PIH-ROP.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a></p> <p>Tel: (431) 338-8647</p>	<p><b>Ontario and Prairie</b></p> <p>Patricia Klotz</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:DFO.HSP-OPR_PIH-ROP.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.HSP-OPR_PIH-ROP.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a></p> <p>Tel: (431) 338-8647</p>
<p><b>Pacific</b></p> <p>Michelle Cho</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:DFO.HSP-PYR_PIH-RPY.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.HSP-PYR_PIH-RPY.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a></p> <p>Tel: (236) 330-4291</p>		