

# Response Statement - Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes population

**December 2, 2010**

**Common Name:** Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes population

**Scientific Name:** *Gadus morhua*

**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 government of Nunavut, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes population, 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 Atlantic Cod, Arctic Lakes population, 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:** This designatable unit (DU) exists in 3 isolated lakes on Baffin Island, Nunavut. The combined surface area of the 3 lakes is less than 20 km<sup>2</sup>. Rescue from other DUs is not possible. One of the lakes, Ogac Lake, is accessible for fishing and large numbers of the species may be removed from the lake if fishing increases.

**Occurrence:** Nunavut

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

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

Nunavut

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