

Developing guidance for aquatic species recovery planning under SARA

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With passage of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) in June 2003, new standards for recovery planning for species under federal jurisdiction have been set by Canada's Parliament. Recovery strategies and action plans for aquatic species at risk developed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) now need to ensure that specific requirements under this new legislation are met. A small working group comprised of representatives from DFO regions and sectors has worked collaboratively in preparing detailed guidelines for recovery planners that account for specific SARA recovery provisions. These efforts specific to aquatic species are intended to complement existing federal/provincial/territorial recovery planning processes established for all species under the national recovery program, RENEW. An overview of the document is presented and progress towards its completion and approval are outlined.