

Backstage Pass to SARA: How do I get on The List?

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Getting yourself listed as a protected species under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) requires determination, and is not unlike... a groupie trying to get backstage at a rock concert! Many will want to get in but they will encounter a few bouncers on the way! This amusing analogy will be used to illustrate the listing process under SARA. Indeed, once the status of a wildlife species has been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), the species does not automatically receive the protection and recovery measures that the Species at Risk (SARA) contains. First it must be legally listed, that is, added to Schedule 1 of the Act, the List of Wildlife Species at Risk, by the Governor in Council (GIC). On recommendation of the Minister of the Environment, GIC may: (a) accept the assessment and add the species to the List; (b) decide not to add the species to the List; or (c) refer the matter back to COSEWIC for further information or consideration. Before making a recommendation the Minister will consult with the governments of the provinces and territories in which each species occurs, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the species should be added to the List. The Minister will also consider the costs and benefits of listing a species when developing his recommendation. The presentation will give an overview of the listing process, discuss in more detail the costs and benefits of adding a species to the List, and give examples of aquatic species currently undergoing the listing and consultations process.