

# Response Statement - Anticosti Aster

January 18, 2018

**Common Name:** Anticosti Aster

**Scientific Name:** *Symphyotrichum anticostense*

**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:** COSEWIC has reassessed the Anticosti Aster, which is currently on Schedule 1 as Threatened and concluded its status has changed. The Minister of the Environment will forward the new COSEWIC assessment of the Anticosti Aster as Special Concern, to the Governor in Council (GiC) as soon as possible after the close of the normal consultation period and analysis as appropriate. During the normal consultation period the Minister of Environment will consult with the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Anticosti Aster should have its Schedule 1 status of Threatened changed to Special Concern.

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 clonal plant is restricted to calcareous shores of larger rivers (and occasionally lakes) in Eastern Québec and New Brunswick. At least 95% of its small global range occurs in Canada. Invasive species threaten habitat quality and there is some evidence that localized hybridization and deer browsing may minimally affect population persistence at local scales. Since the species' last assessment of Threatened in 2000, extensive searching resulted in the documentation of several new subpopulations. The subpopulations appear to be stable.

**Occurrence:** Quebec, New Brunswick

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

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

Quebec

New Brunswick

**Conservation activities underway:** The Recovery Strategy for the Anticosti Aster (*Symphyotrichum anticostense*) in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.