



Ecology Action Centre

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Ecology Action Centre Statement on 2014 COSEWIC Assessment of Porbeagle Shark

“The Ecology Action Centre is disappointed to learn that the status of the endangered porbeagle shark has not improved in the last 10 years according to an independent body of Canadian scientists who make up the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which met last week in Halifax. The porbeagle – one of the world’s most vulnerable shark species - is commonly known as “Canada’s Shark” because it swims in Canadian waters for most of its life cycle.

“When originally assessed as “endangered” in 2004, the Canadian government decided not to list the species under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), citing primarily socio-economic reasons. However the COSEWIC finding this week shows the species has not recovered. The EAC is concerned that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans’ management of porbeagle is failing to recover the species, and that it must now take action to protect the species under the Species at Risk Act, and take additional measures to prevent it from being caught as bycatch. The most recent estimates indicate that recovery time for porbeagle shark could be upwards of a hundred years under current fishing pressure.”

For further comment on the COSEWIC findings and porbeagle shark management, please contact:

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The Ecology Action Centre is Atlantic Canada’s oldest and largest environmental organization, celebrating 40 years of action in 2011. The Marine Issues Committee of the Ecology Action Centre works locally, nationally and internationally towards conserving and protecting marine ecosystems and maintaining sustainable fisheries and vibrant coastal communities.

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