

Ontario Species at Risk Evaluation Report for Ringed Seal

phoque annelé / phoque marbré

**Netsik (Inuit/Labrador); Nattiq (Inuit/North and East
Baffin); Natiinat (Inuit); Natchiq, Natchiit and Natic
(Inuit/North Slope); Natsiq/Natsik (Inuit/Nunavik and
Nunavut) (*Pusa hispida*)**

Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario
(COSSARO)

Assessed by COSSARO as Ineligible for Assessment

November 2021

Phoque annelé (*Pusa hispida*)

Comme la présence du phoque annelé ou phoque marbré se limite en Ontario à des phoques errants, cette espèce ne respecte pas les exigences en matière d'admissibilité à une évaluation par le CDSEPO et, par conséquent, elle n'a pas été évaluée.

Le phoque annelé est un phocidé de petite taille qui comporte cinq sous-espèces, dont l'une est présente au Canada : le phoque annelé de l'Arctique (*Pusa hispida*). Ce phoque est présent dans la baie d'Hudson, à l'extrémité sud de son aire de répartition. Bien qu'il fasse usage de la glace marine et de l'eau de la baie, le phoque ne vient pas sur la terre ferme ni n'entre dans les rivières, à l'exception de ceux qui s'échouent parfois et qui sont considérés comme des individus errants.

Cette publication hautement spécialisée n'est disponible qu'en anglais conformément au Règlement 671/92, selon lequel il n'est pas obligatoire de la traduire en vertu de la Loi sur les services en français. Pour obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez communiquer avec le ministère l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs au cossarosecretariat@ontario.ca

Executive summary

Ringed Seal is a small phocid seal with five subspecies, one of which (Arctic Ringed Seal, *Pusa hispida hispida*) occurs in Canada. The seal occurs in Hudson Bay at the southern extend of its range. While it uses the sea ice and waters of the bay, the seal does not come ashore or enter rivers, except for occasional strandings of individuals, which are considered vagrants.

Because Ringed Seal only occurs in Ontario as a vagrant, it does not meet the eligibility requirements for COSSARO assessment, and therefore not assessed.

1. Eligibility for Ontario status assessment

1.1. Eligibility conditions

1.1.1. Taxonomic distinctness

Ringed Seal has five subspecies, one of which occurs in Canada: the Artic Ringed Seal (*Pusa hispida hispida*).

1.1.2. Designatable units

There is no evidence to suggest that Ringed Seal in Canada should be assessed as more than one designatable unit (COSEWIC 2019).

1.1.3. Native status

Ringed Seal occur natively in Hudson's Bay, but remain on the sea ice and in the waters of the bay, without deliberately coming ashore in Ontario.

1.1.4. Occurrence

Ringed Seal rely on sea ice and do enter rivers. Although the seal occurs in Hudson's Bay (COSEWIC 2019), it does not access the shoreline except for occasional strandings at low tide, likely of young of the year, which are considered to be occasional vagrants by NHIC (D. Sutherland, Personal Communication 2020). The sea ice of Hudson Bay is outside of Ontario's jurisdiction. Thus, because the species only occurs in Ontario as a vagrant, it does not meet the criteria for occurrence in the province.

1.2. Eligibility results

Ringed Seal (*Pusa hispida*) is ineligible for status assessment in Ontario.

2. Information sources

COSEWIC. 2019. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Ringed Seal *Pusa hispida* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 82 pp. (<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html>).

Acronyms

COSEWIC: Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
COSSARO: Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario
ESA: Endangered Species Act
EO: Element occurrence (as defined by NHIC)
EOO: extent of occurrence
GRANK: global conservation status assessments
IAO: index of area of occupancy
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MNRF: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
NHIC: Natural Heritage Information Centre
NNR: Unranked
NRANK: National conservation status assessment
SARA: Species at Risk Act
SNR: unranked
SRANK: subnational conservation status assessment
S1: Critically Imperiled
S2: Imperiled
S3: Vulnerable
S4: Apparently Secure
S5: Secure
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
CDSEPO: Le Comité de détermination du statut des espèces en péril en Ontario