

COSSARO Knowledge Submission Form

Version: August 2026

Purpose: Under the *Species Conservation Act, 2025* (SCA), the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) classifies species based on the best available scientific information, including shared Indigenous Knowledge (also referred to as Indigenous traditional knowledge) and community knowledge. COSSARO invites Indigenous peoples and communities to share knowledge that may help inform ongoing and future species assessments. COSSARO also invites other individuals or groups with relevant community knowledge to share information.

- **Indigenous Knowledge** includes Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as well as information on Indigenous interests, perspectives and other forms of knowledge and data held and shared by Indigenous peoples, such as a species' ecological or cultural significance. Aspects of Indigenous Knowledge may be shared via this submission form or through other options, including by meeting with COSSARO members. To request a meeting or explore alternative ways of sharing Indigenous Knowledge, contact COSSAROSecretariat@ontario.ca.
- **Community knowledge** is not limited to Indigenous peoples and may include information derived from observation, personal experience, history or culture about a species' distribution, abundance, habitat use, life history traits, ecological relationships and potential threats.

Species assessments are guided by rules established in legislation ([section 11 of the SCA](#)) as well as detailed criteria maintained by the Committee. COSSARO's publicly available [Categories and Criteria for Status Assessment](#) provides additional context on the assessment process, including the types of information the Committee uses to make its classifications. This form can be used to provide COSSARO with information that you believe will assist in determining the conservation status of species scheduled for assessment or that may warrant assessment at an upcoming meeting.

Information on abundance, distribution and threats that is not publicly available (for example, in scientific literature or in government reports) is particularly helpful to assess the status of the species planned for assessment. Historical information (including information passed down through generations) and verifiable documentation (such as fur returns, catch statistics, or compiled observation records) are also very useful. Where possible, please provide information directly pertinent to a species' conservation status and include actual numbers (or proportion change) and the specific locations to which the information applies. Indigenous communities may additionally share information on Indigenous interests, perspectives, or knowledge, including a species' ecological or cultural significance.

Please provide information for any relevant categories in the form below. If you require additional space, you may provide information in another format or submit additional documentation. Send this form and any supporting information by email to COSSAROSecretariat@ontario.ca.

Note: Observation data can also be submitted to Ontario's Natural Heritage Information Centre. Instructions are available on Ontario's web page for [reporting rare species](#).

Species Information

Information Type (please select all that apply):

- ☐ Local or regional population trends, observations, or data
- ☐ Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
- ☐ Cultural or other significance (e.g., spiritual, material, medicinal, socioeconomic)
- ☐ Other form of Indigenous Knowledge
- ☐ Other form of community knowledge

Species: _____

Precise location: _____

Habitat: _____

Observation dates: _____

Population trends and time periods: _____

Behaviour: _____

Threats: _____

Mortality sources or trends: _____

Cultural or other significance:

Additional comments:

Submission Information

Information submitted by (full name): _____

Information gathered by (if different from above): _____

Affiliation (if representing a community or organization):

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____

Acknowledgement and Consent

I give permission to COSSARO to use the information shared in this form to inform COSSARO species assessments and classifications. I understand that this information may be published and cited in a species evaluation report, and that I may be contacted to review or confirm that the information is accurately represented before it is published:

☐ Yes ☐ No

I give permission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to use the information shared in this form to inform government decisions related to the Protected Species in Ontario List regulation:

☐ Yes ☐ No

I give permission for COSSARO, the MECP, and other associated parties (e.g., authors hired externally) to contact me for more information to support the conservation planning process, if applicable:

☐ Yes ☐ No