

A Resolution Submitted by the Metropolitan Community of Québec, QC



REASSESSING FEDERAL STATUS OF STRIPED BASS IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

May 2025

WHEREAS the historic population of striped bass in the St. Lawrence River disappeared in the 1960s, in particular due to overfishing and the destruction of its habitat.

AND WHEREAS the striped bass population currently present in the St. Lawrence River results from a reintroduction program implemented in 2002, and this contemporary population of striped bass in the St. Lawrence has the status of a species at risk under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

AND WHEREAS this species has been the subject of numerous status reassessments in recent years and it has been recognized since 2019 by the responsible authorities that the striped bass observed today in the St. Lawrence River are not part of the original population of this area.

AND WHEREAS fishing striped bass in the St. Lawrence River is prohibited by its status, and all individuals caught accidentally by sport or commercial fishing upstream of Forestville (on the north shore) and Rimouski (on the south shore) must be returned to the water.

AND WHEREAS the protection and recovery of this contemporary population of striped bass are jointly managed by the governments of Canada and Québec and are the subject of work by the Striped Bass Recovery Team, which was formed in 2008.

AND WHEREAS the striped bass population of the St. Lawrence River has been the subject of rigorous studies and monitoring in recent years, and there is data allowing for a better understanding of the status of the population and its distribution area.

AND WHEREAS the monitoring of striped bass in recent years has established that, since the reintroduction of this species into the St. Lawrence River, it has reproduced naturally and that an increase in the abundance of its population and its geographical distribution has been observed.

AND WHEREAS if it has an abundant population, the striped bass can be a source of predation pressure on several other important species and therefore on the ecosystem where it is found.

AND WHEREAS the striped bass in the St. Lawrence River presents interesting potential for recreational fishing, an activity that can generate socioeconomic benefits within our communities, in addition to contributing to the sustainable management of this emblematic resource of the river.

AND WHEREAS under Canada's SARA, any change in the legal status of the striped bass must be based on a reassessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and such a reassessment is necessary based on the facts outlined in this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative asks the Government of Canada to reassess the protected status under SARA of the striped bass population in the St. Lawrence River as soon as possible, taking into account its abundance, its distribution area and its effects on the ecosystem and economic activities.

AND FURTHER BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution will be distributed to: Canadian Minister of Fisheries Joanne Thompson.