

Title: Problems and solutions for the assessment, conservation and restoration of rare, threatened and endangered fish species (N)

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Considering that there is generally a lack of long term or reliable information on rare, threatened and endangered fish species, there is an obvious need to assess current and required assessment methods, including the use of data from monitored rivers or populations and novel non-invasive sampling techniques which may now be available. Similarly, strategies for conservation and recovery may be limited by low population sizes particularly where effective populations sizes have not been assessed. Current developments in population genetics would also be informative in this regard.

As there is great concern internationally at the status of many such species (and in particular many diadromous fish species), this would be a good opportunity to attract the interest and contributions of IUCN, WWF, CITES, OSPAR, COSEWIC, Canada, EU Commission and other national and international groups who often have specific interests/responsibilities for conservation of endangered species (e.g. sturgeon, eels, lampreys and shad etc).

Papers should be prepared relating to:

- Benign or non-invasive stock assessment techniques or gears
- Biological sampling programmes for marginal and threatened species including marine species
- Assessment models and risk analyses
- Assessment of minimum effective population size and genetic diversity
- Gene banking
- Population models for estimating recovery or extinction rates
- Case histories indicating success with establishing baseline population estimates of threatened or endangered species leading to effective restoration or conservation.

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