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April 11, 2012

Chief R. Donald Maracle and Council
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
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SUBJECT: Proposed federal recovery strategies for Spotted Gar and Pugnose Shiner, under the *Species at Risk Act*

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is sending advanced notice to First Nations, Métis communities and Aboriginal organizations who may wish to review and provide feedback to the Government of Canada on two proposed recovery strategies: **Recovery Strategy for the Spotted Gar in Canada, and Recovery Strategy for Pugnose Shiner in Canada**. These recovery strategies include the identification of critical habitat.

The Spotted Gar and Pugnose Shiner are protected by the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA); Spotted Gar is listed as Threatened, while the Pugnose Shiner is listed as Endangered. As Threatened or Endangered species, it is illegal to harm these fishes, and SARA requires that a recovery strategy be developed to help protect and recover populations of these species. Each recovery strategy outlines the actions required to protect and recover each species, identifies each species' critical habitat requirements, and outlines the extent and distribution of this critical habitat. Once a recovery strategy has been finalized, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will put in place an order (or its equivalent under another Act of Parliament) to prohibit the destruction of critical habitat under the *Species at Risk Act* section 58(1).

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, together with each species' recovery teams have prepared a proposed recovery strategy that outlines the goals, objectives and approaches recommended for protecting and recovering each species. Because the proposed strategies outline measures intended to protect and recover each fish and its critical habitat, there exists the possibility that this strategy could impact traditional activities, such as fishing, that may occur within or adjacent to your community. Consequently, we would appreciate any feedback that your community wishes to provide on these proposed recovery strategies, prior to finalizing these documents.

I have enclosed a summary of the proposed recovery strategy for each species, Spotted Gar, and Pugnose Shiner, but the full-length document is available upon request by contacting the undersigned. Over the next two months we anticipate that all three recovery strategies will be posted on the SARA Public Registry for a 60-day review and comment period open to all members of the general public.

We will follow up again with you once each proposed recovery strategy has been posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry. Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue to accept comments for up to 60 days after the posting of the strategy and then will consider all responses during the finalization of each recovery strategy. If requested, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is also available for further discussions regarding the *Species at Risk Act* or any of the three proposed recovery strategies

Fisheries and Oceans Canada invites your comments on each recovery strategy and identified critical habitat. We are interested in learning about any potential effects that these strategies could have on your community or organization. Please send your comments by email or post to the undersigned.

Yours truly,



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Encl. Proposed Recovery Strategy for Spotted Gar – Plain Language Summary
Proposed Recovery Strategy for Pugnose Shiner – Plain Language Summary

For further reference, you may also wish to view the following websites:

For more information on the Species at Risk Act

www.sararegistry.gc.ca

For more information on aquatic species at risk in Canada

www.aquaticspeciesatrisk.gc.ca

For more information on the Spotted Gar and Pugnose Shiner

www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species