




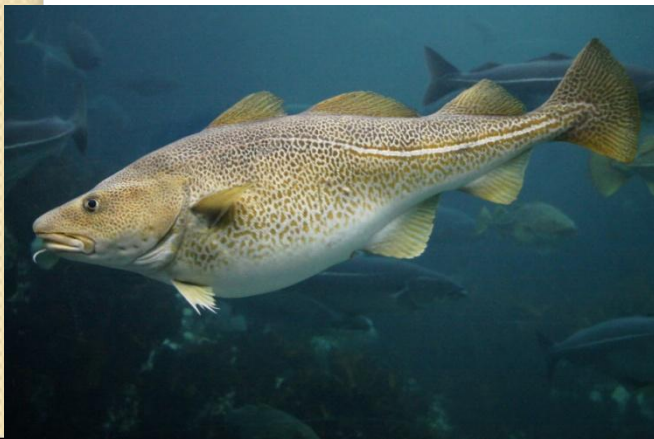
Species at Risk

Lesson 6

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- Species whose population decline below a certain level are considered to be at risk. In Canada there are more than 250 species of plants and animals that are at various degrees of risk

Vulnerable

- Any species that is at risk because of low or **declining numbers** at the fringe of its range or in some restricted area
 - -Atlantic cod (even though commercial fishing has been reduced)
 - -Grey fox (is beginning to return to Southern Ontario, but it needs woodlands)



Threatened

- Any species that is likely **to become endangered** if factors that make it vulnerable are not reversed



- -Wood bison (their number is small and a recent sickness is a problem for the remaining population)
- -Anatum peregrine falcon (with captive breeding the population is slowly recovering)



Extirpated

- Any species that **no longer exists** in one part of Canada, but can be found in others.
 - -Grizzly bear (no longer found in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but still in Alberta and B.C.)
 - -Sage Grouse, Has not been seen in B.C since 1966



Endangered

- A species that is **close to extinction** in all parts of Canada or in a significantly large location
 - -Eastern cougar (sightings are very rare)
 - -Beluga whale, (in 1997 there were only 1221 whales in the St. Lawrence)



Extinct

- A species that is not **found anywhere**
 - -Blue Walleye (last seen in lake Erie in 1965)
 - -Passenger pigeon (the last one died in captivity in 1914)



Extinction

- Every single year thousands of species become eliminated and the number grows larger each year.
- Between 1600 and 1900 it is estimated that one species went extinct every 4 years. This number has sky rocketed and is thought to hit 1 species going extinct every 30 minutes.

Causes of Extinction

- Climate change and competition from other species are factors contributing to extinction but the major factor is human activities.



Effects of Extinction

- Since all organisms in an ecosystem are connected the extinction of one species can cause a domino effect and lead to the collapse of an entire food chain. This then reduces the **biodiversity** (variety) of species. Extinction cannot be reversed but it can be prevented.

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- Why is having a classification system for species at risk important and useful?

Web Search

- Pick an animal or a plant, which is either endangered, extirpated or threatened, and answer the following questions about it by using the internet as a resource tool.

Questions:

- What is the animal?
- What is its status? (endangered, extirpated, threatened) **K (1)**
- Where does it live? **K (1)**
- What is its habitat? **K (1)**
- Make a simple food chain or web that it would be in **T (2)**
- Why is the species in danger? **K (1)**
- What is being done to protect the species? **T (1)**
- What do you think should be done to help save the species? **T (1)**
- **K (/ 4) T (/4)**