

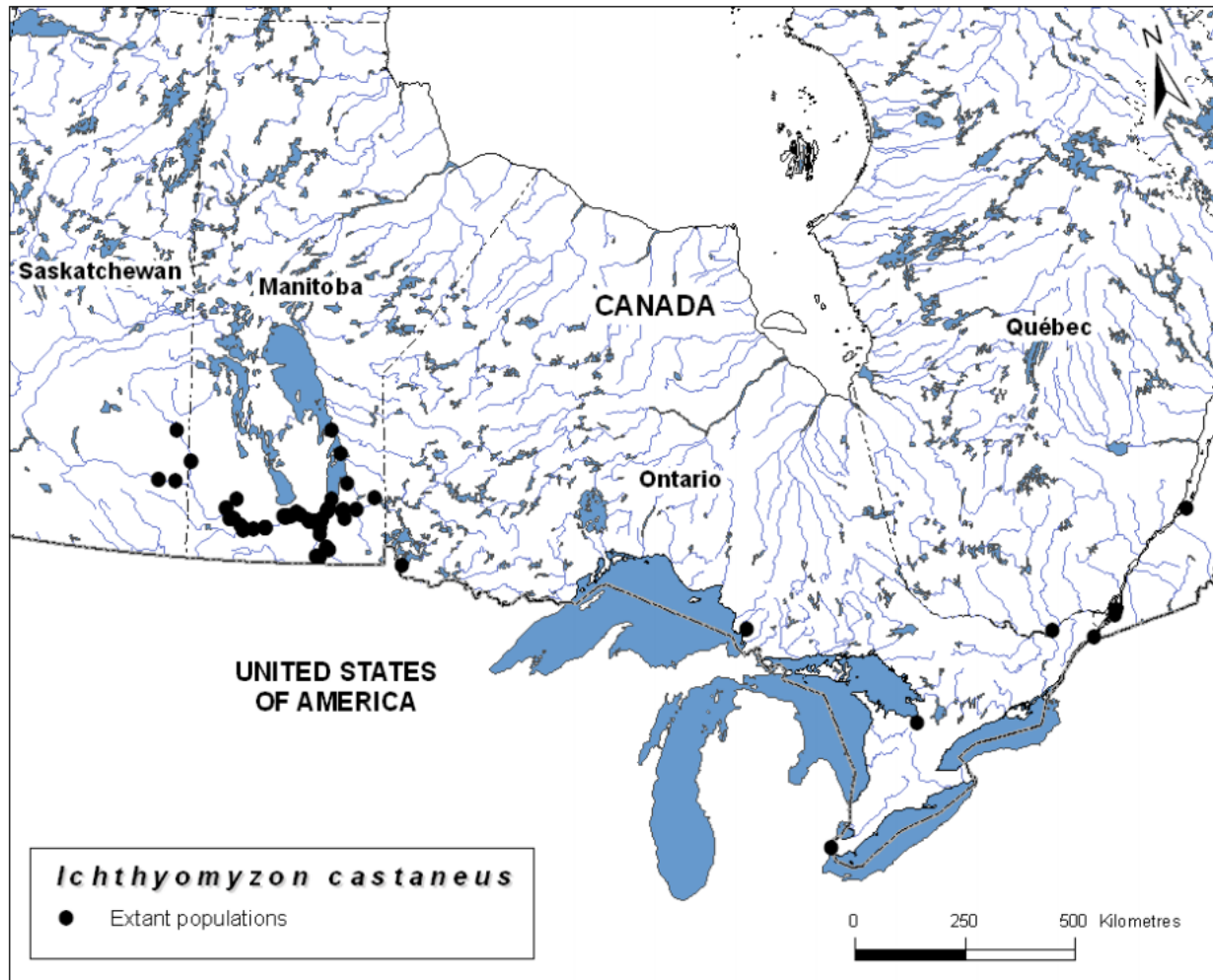


Species at Risk Profile Series: Chestnut Lamprey



- Chestnut Lampreys are considered Special Concern in Canada.
- They are a parasitic fish found in freshwater lakes and rivers.
- Lampreys do not possess jaws, but instead have a circular set of teeth on a suction-cup mouth used for rasping off the scales of their host so the lamprey can feed on their blood.
- Their first 5-7 years of life are spent as filter-feeding larvae buried in stream bottoms, eating algae and other microscopic organisms.
- Lampreys then metamorphize into their adult form, exchanging their filter mouth for their suction-cup mouth.
- Chestnut Lampreys live as adults for 18 months before spawning and subsequently dying.
- Their estimated home range is approximately 50 km.
- Chestnut Lampreys appear to primarily feed at night, presumably to avoid predation.
- During spawning, they use their suction-cup mouths to move rocks and create a nest.
- Spawning occurs in streams during late summer.





Conservation

- Population sizes are not well understood due to limited sampling.
- Chestnut Lampreys are considered to compose two populations in Canada, one in the Great Lakes-Upper St. Lawrence River and one in Saskatchewan-Nelson River.
- Chestnut Lampreys are Saskatchewan's only lamprey, and are the most common of Manitoba's three lamprey species.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Chestnut Lamprey [here](#).

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 Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2010. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Chestnut Lamprey *Ichthyomyzon castaneus* (Great Lakes—Upper St. Lawrence populations and Saskatchewan—Nelson River populations) in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 35 pp.