

# ONE CREATURE AT A TIME

In October, Canadian environmental officials added 76 species to the lists of plants and animals that are environmentally threatened or at risk of complete extinction. There are more than 70,000 known plant and animal species in Canada, many of them unique to the country.

Included in the announcement were the North Atlantic Right Whale, the Western Wolverine, and the Dromedary Jumping Slug. This will bring to 309, the number of species that received special attention, with another 44 on the waiting list.

Setting aside species for special protection is rendered more complicated when particular species cannot be isolated from others for protection purposes. In the last round of announcements, two types of BC Salmon, which represent less than one per cent of the sockeye

population, were left off the list for socioeconomic reasons. "Even though officials recognize that they have an endangered status; protecting them would have meant shutting down the entire Pacific Salmon fishing industry".

