

Reference:

1. **Ontario Government Legislation**:

- Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO). (2025). *Proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025*. ERO Number: 019-9976. Available at: [Ontario.ca Environmental Registry](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-9976).

- Primary source detailing the proposed amendments, public consultation period (ending May 17, 2025), and specifics of Bill 5, including changes to permitting, habitat definitions, and species listing processes.

2. **Ontario Nature**:

- Ontario Nature. (2025). *Bill 5 Threatens Endangered Species*. Available at: [ontarionature.org](https://ontarionature.org/news-blog/bill-5-threatens-endangered-species/)

- Provides analysis of Bill 5's impact, including the shift to registration-based processes, weakened habitat protections, and the dissolution of the Species Conservation Action Agency. Highlights risks to 243 at-risk species and 37 species in Niagara.

3. **Environmental Defence Canada**:

- Environmental Defence. (2025). *Ontario's Endangered Species Act Under Attack Again*. Available at: [environmentaldefence.ca](https://environmentaldefence.ca/2025/04/18/ontarios-endangered-species-act-under-attack-again/).

- Discusses the replacement of recovery strategies and management plans, exemptions for federally protected species, and the discretionary power to alter species listings against COSSARO recommendations.

4. **Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)**:

- OFAH. (2025). *OFAH Submission on ERO 019-9976*. Available at: [ofah.org](https://www.ofah.org/news/ofah-submission-ero-019-9976/).

- Critiques the narrowing of habitat protections to "immediate dwelling places" and the removal of mandatory recovery strategies, emphasizing risks to species like the Redside Dace.

5. **X Platform Posts**:

- Multiple user posts on X (accessed May 16, 2025). Keywords: "Bill 5 Ontario," "Endangered Species Act 2025," "Species Conservation Act."

- Reflect public sentiment, with users describing Bill 5 as "decimating" protections and warning of "huge negative implications." Note: Specific post URLs are not provided due to platform volatility, but sentiment was cross-referenced with web sources.

6. **Government of Canada – Species at Risk Act (SARA)**:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada. (2025). *Species at Risk Act Overview*. Available at:

[canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html).

- Used to verify gaps in federal-provincial enforcement, highlighting SARA's limited granular oversight compared to provincial ESA protections.

7. ****Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO)**:**

- COSSARO. (2024). **Annual Report on Species at Risk in Ontario**. Available at: [ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/page/committee-status-species-risk-ontario).
- Provides data on Ontario's 243 at-risk species, including 117 endangered, and the role of COSSARO's independent assessments, which Bill 5 undermines.

8. ****Ontario Biodiversity Council**:**

- Ontario Biodiversity Council. (2024). **State of Ontario's Biodiversity Report**. Available at: [ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca](https://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/reports/).
- Contextualizes the ecological importance of protecting ecosystems for food, water, and climate stability, underscoring the risks of weakened ESA protections.

These references were consulted to ensure accuracy and to provide a comprehensive view of the proposed changes and their implications. If you need specific excerpts or further analysis from any of these sources, let me know!