

Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre

Data Dictionary

Revised: October 17, 2025

I. Biodiversity Database

The following fields of data may be included (and may or may not be populated) in occurrence records.
Text fields are 255 char max. (and may truncate text).

TAXONOMY						
Field	Type	Definition				
MCODE	TXT	8 character 'Museum Code' (1 to 4 = genus, 5 to 8 = sp+ssp)				
ELCODE	TXT	Unique Identifier of taxon				
SCINAME	TXT	Global Scientific Name of taxon				
COMNAME	TXT	English Common Name of taxon				
NOMCOMMUN	TXT	French Common Name				
LOCATION						
Field	Type	Definition				
SURVEYSITE	TXT	General locality of occurrence				
DIRECTIONS	TXT	Specific locality: e.g. bearings and distance from enduring landmark				
SUBNAT	TXT	Province/State: 2-character ISO code				
COCODE	TXT	County Code (2 characters for province + 4 characters for county name)				
MAPCODE	TXT	Map number: NTS identifier in Canada				
UTME20	INT	Easting in UTM Zone 20				
UTMN20	INT	Northing in UTM Zone 20				
LONDEC	DEC	Decimal Longitude				
LATDEC	DEC	Decimal Latitude				
LOCUNCM	INT	Horizontal precision in metres				
PREC	DEC	Precision in metres by power of 10 (e.g. 3 = 10 to the 3rd = 1000 m = 1 km):				
		prec	common speech	example	unit size	literal range
		6.0	within province	province	1000.0 km	562.3 - 1778.3 km
		5.7	in part of province	'NW NB'	500.0 km	281.2 - 889.1 km
		5.0	within in county	county	100.0 km	56.2 - 177.8 km
		4.7	within 50s of kilometres		50.0 km	28.1 - 88.9 km
		4.0	within 10s of kilometres	BBA grid	10.0 km	5.6 - 17.8 km
		3.7	within 5s of kilometres		5.0 km	2.8 - 8.9 km
		3.0	within kilometres	topo grid	1.0 km	0.6 - 1.8 km
		2.7	within 500s of metres		500.0 m	281.2 - 889.1 m
		2.0	within 100s of metres	ball field	100.0 m	56.2 - 177.8 m
		1.7	within 50s of metres		50.0 m	28.1 - 88.9 m
		1.0	within 10s of metres	boxcar	10.0 m	5.6 - 17.8 m
		0.7	within 5s of metres		5.0 m	2.8 - 8.9 m
		0.0	NOT USED	pace	1.0 m	0.6 - 1.8 m
RARITY / STATUS						
Field	Type	Definition				
NRANK	TXT	National Rarity Rank of taxon (in Canada)				
NPROT	TXT	National Protection Status of taxon (i.e., COSEWIC in Canada)				
NPROTSAR	TXT	National Protection Status of taxon (i.e., SARA in Canada):				
		code	Rank and short definition			
		X	Extinct in Canada and elsewhere			
		XT	Extirpated in Canada but surviving elsewhere			
		E	Endangered in Canada			
		T	Threatened in Canada			
		V	Vulnerable in Canada			
		SC	Special Concern in Canada			
		DD	Data Deficient: data inadequate for assessment			
		NAR	Not At Risk in Canada			
SRANK	TXT	Subnational (Provincial) Rarity Rank of taxon:				
		code	Rank and short definition			
		SX	Extinct or extirpated in province			
		SH	Historically occurring but currently undetected in province			
		S1	Extremely rare in province			
		S2	Rare in province			
		S3	Uncommon in province			

		S4	Widespread, common and apparently secure in province
		S5	Widespread, abundant and demonstrably secure in province
		SE	Exotic in province
		SA	Accidental, infrequent and outside of range within province
		SNA	Ranking not applicable in province
		SNR	Not yet assessed in province
SPROT	TXT	Provincial Legal Protection Status	
		code	Rank and short definition
		Endangered	Facing imminent extirpation or extinction
		Threatened	Likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed
		Vulnerable (NS)	Special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events
		Special Concern (NB)	May become a threatened or endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats
		Extirpated	No longer exists in the wild in the Province but exists in the wild outside of the Province
		Extinct	No longer exists
IUCN	TXT	International Union of Conservation Naturalists rarity rank:	
		code	Rank and short definition
		EX	Extinct: no individuals remaining
		EW	Extinct in the Wild: only captive or naturalised survivors
		CR	Critically Endangered: extreme risk of extinction in wild
		EN	Endangered: high risk of extinction in wild
		VU	Vulnerable: high risk of endangerment in wild
		NT	Near Threatened: likely to become endangered soon
		LC	Least Concern: lowest risk, widespread and abundant
		DD	Data Deficient: data inadequate for assessment
NE	Not Evaluated, not yet assessed against criteria		
OBSERVATION			
Field	Type	Definition	
OBSERVER	TXT	Individual(s) that observed the taxon	
IDENTby	TXT	Individual(s) that identified the taxon	
OBDATE	TXT	Date of observation (YYYY MM DD)	
OBDATA	TXT	Concatenation of fields below, relating to observation	
OBEVID	TXT	Type of evidence (e.g., specimen, photo)	
OBCOUNT	TXT	Number of individuals at location	
OBABUN	TXT	Relative rarity of taxon at location, e.g. 'common', 'scattered'	
OBSIZE	TXT	Size of individual	
SIZE	TXT	Size of occurrence 'patch' (in m ² , ha or acres)	
OBDESC	TXT	Details of specimen appearance or conditions	
OBPHEN	TXT	Life stage of individual (e.g., bud, flowering)	
OBSEX	TXT	Male/female if relevant	
OBACTIV	TXT	Activity of individual when observed (e.g., nesting, crossing road)	
OBASSP	TXT	Other taxa associated with the observation	
NOTETAX	TXT	Identifier's note on taxonomic issues	
GENDESC	TXT	Concatenation of fields below, relating to site	
HABITAT	TXT	Habitat characterization of location	
ECODIST	NUM	National Ecological Framework EcoDistrict identifier	
WSCODE	TXT	Quaternary Watershed identifier	
GENCOM	TXT	General Comments: concatenation of Notes (NOTE1, NOTE2, NOTE3)	
COLLECTION			
Field	Type	Definition	
CITATION	TXT	Primary source of data	
DATA MANAGEMENT			
Field	Type	Definition	
IDNUM	TXT	AC CDC record Unique ID	
EDITION	TXT	Last editor's initials and date (YYYY MM DD)	

II. Managed and Biologically Significant Areas (MSA) Database

The following fields of data may be included (and may or may not be populated) for Managed and Biologically Significant Areas.

IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION		
Field	Type	Definition
msaGIS	INT	Unique GIS feature identifier
msaCode	TXT	Unique identifier for the MSA feature
msaClass	TXT	Whether the MSA feature is a Managed Area (MA) or biologically Significant Area (SA)

msaName	TXT	MSA feature name
msaNameFr	TXT	MSA feature name (French)
description	TXT	Description of the MSA feature
notes	TXT	Additional notes about the MSA feature
JURISDICTION / OWNERSHIP		
Field	Type	Definition
localJuris	TXT	Mandated agency with jurisdiction over property
owner	TXT	Property owner
ownerCom	TXT	Details of multiparty arrangements
ownerDate	TXT	Date of property possession
CLASSIFICATION		
Field	Type	Definition
protStat	TXT	Activities permitted or restricted (when known)
legalAct	TXT	Title of enabling legislation
legalDate	TXT	Year of enabling legislation
estabDate	TXT	Year of site designation
aichit11	TXT	Whether the site counts towards the Aichi Target 11 and Canada Target 1 biodiversity targets (yes or no)
oecm	TXT	Other effective area-based conservation means (yes or no)
iucnCat	TXT	IUCN protected area category. For complete category descriptions, visit https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-021.pdf . Features categorized as "YES" are sites which meet the standard definition of a protected area, but the category of protection has not yet been determined and features categorized as "N/A" are other area-based conservation measures or sites that do not meet the protected area definition (2018 Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD) User Manual).
msaType	TXT	MSA feature type:
		group
		Designation
		Conservation
		Conservation Area
		Conservation Easement
		Fee-Simple Ownership by Environmental Non-Governmental Conservation Organization
		Land Trust Property
		Natural Area
		Nature Preserve
		Nature Reserve
		Nature Reserve and Conservation Easement
		Nature Trail
		Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure
		Privately Owned Conservation Area
		Privately Owned Natural Area
		Protected Area
		Protected Beach
		Protected Natural Area
		Provincially Owned Natural Area
		To be determined
		Heritage
		Heritage River
		Museum
		National Historic Event
		National Historic Site
		Provincial Heritage Site
		Provincial Historic Site
		Provincial Historic/Heritage Park
		UNESCO World Heritage Site
		Parks
		Municipal Park
		National Park
		Nature Park
		Park
		Privately Owned Park
		Provincial Park
		Provincial Park Beach
		Wilderness
		Ecological Reserve
		Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)
		Site of Ecological Significance (SES)
		Site of Ecological Significance/International Biological Program (SES / IBP)
		Wilderness Area
		Wilderness Reserve
		Wildlife
		Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV)
		Important Bird Area (IBA)
		Marine Protected Area
		Migratory Bird Sanctuary
		National Wildlife Area (NWA)
		Privately Owned Wildlife Management Area
		Provincial Wildlife Management Area

			Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
			Wildlife Park
			Wildlife Refuge
			Wildlife Reserve
			Wildlife Sanctuary
		Other	Education Area
			Experimental Area
			Federal Corrections Facility
			Fossil Site
			International Biological Program (IBP)
			Memorial Site
			Other Managed Area
			RAMSAR Wetland Site
			Special Management Area
			Water Supply Area
			Watershed

LOCATION AND SPATIAL ATTRIBUTES		
Field	Type	Definition
subnat	TXT	Two-letter jurisdiction code (NB, NS, PE, NF, LB)
location	TXT	Directions to the MSA feature
biome	TXT	Whether an MSA feature falls within the terrestrial (T) or marine (M) environment
mapCode	TXT	The National Topographic System (NTS) map square the centre of the MSA feature falls within
coCode	TXT	Provincial county code (2 characters for province + 4 characters for county name)
latDec	DEC	Latitude of the centre of the MSA feature
lonDec	DEC	Longitude of the centre of the MSA feature
utmE20	INT	Easting of the centre of the MSA feature (NAD83 UTM Zone 20N)
utmN20	INT	Northing of the centre of the MSA feature (NAD83 UTM Zone 20N)
extentN	DEC	Northern extent of the MSA feature
extentS	DEC	Southern extent of the MSA feature
extentE	DEC	Eastern extent of the MSA feature
extentW	DEC	Western extent of the MSA feature
areaHa	DEC	Area of the polygon (ha)
SOURCE ATTRIBUTES		
Field	Type	Definition
sourceId	TXT	Unique ID of the MSA feature in the source dataset
jurisId	TXT	Unique ID of the MSA feature in the original dataset
srcFeatType	TXT	Whether the feature was a point (PT) or polygon feature (PY) in the source dataset. True boundaries of point MSA features are not known. Points have been buffered by 15m to be included in this MSA database
url	TXT	Associated website holding additional information about the source feature or database
bestSource	TXT	Unique identifier for the source database
citation	TXT	Primary source of data
edition	TXT	Initials and date (YYYY MM DD) pertaining to the last edit to the MSA feature