Miscou Island

 KBA, New Brunswick

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| Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster (*Symphyotrichum laurentianum*) |

**Instructions for Reviewers**

1. Read through the “Summary of Proposed KBA” section.
2. Read the questions after the summary and provide answers in the specified spaces.
3. Once you are done, make sure to save your work under a new file name (your answers will be lost if saving back to the original file name).
4. For additional information, see:
* [What are KBAs and how are they assessed?](http://www.kbacanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/What-are-KBAs-and-how-are-they-assessed.pdf)
* [Instructions for reviewers](http://www.kbacanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Instructions-for-reviewers.pdf)

# Summary of Proposed KBA

*Please note that this summary has been generated automatically, and as a result there may be species scientific names that are not italicized.*

1. **KBA Name:** Miscou Island
2. **Location (province or territory, mid-point lat/long):** New Brunswick

, 47.949

/-64.531

1. **KBA Scope:** Global
2. **Trigger Biodiversity Element(s):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ● Species: Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster (*Symphyotrichum laurentianum*) |

1. **Status Summary:**

Miscou Island

qualifies as a candidate Global

 KBA for the following KBA criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ● A1a [criterion met by 1 species] - Site regularly holds ≥0.5% of the global population size AND ≥5 reproductive units of a Critically Endangered or Endangered species. |
|  |  |

1. **Site Description:**

Miscou Island is located at the northeastern tip of New Brunswick, between the Baie des Chaleurs and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The island’s coastline is characterized by a series of sandy coastal beaches and enclosed lagoons. The enclosed lagoons provide the sheltered habitat required for Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster. The interior of the island is comprised of extensive raised peat bogs and stunted forests. Saltmarsh Copper, a butterfly of national conservation concern has been found in the saltmarshes on the island. A protected area, Miscou Grande Plaine (Department of Natural Resources, Government of New Brunswick) occurs at the northwestern tip of the island to conserve and protect the unique coastal sand dunes which occur there.

1. **Assessment Details - KBA Trigger Species:**

| **Species** | **Status** | **Criteria Met** | **# of Reproductive Units** | **Assessment Parameter** |  | **Site Estimate** | **Global Estimate** | **% of Global Pop. at Site** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Year |
| *Symphyotrichum laurentianum* | G1 (NatureServe); N1 (NatureServe) | A1a | 101 | Number of localities |  | 32 | 2016 | 243 | 12.5 |

|  |
| --- |
| 1The site exceeds the minimum number of RUs required to meet the criteria. A targeted survey in 2016 estimated a total of nearly 56,000 individuals (AC CDC database, accessed 2020). Note: This species is self-fertile, source: COSEWIC 2004. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Gulf of St. Lawrence aster Symphyotrichum laurentianum in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii + 39 pp.). |
| 2Due to recent search efforts the species is known from three populations on the island, two of which correspond to the total number of populations (extant and historic) identified in the Recovery Strategy (Source: AC CDC database, accessed December 2020). |
| 3The Recovery Strategy for the species groups all populations (extant and historic) into 24 occurrences or locations based on their proximity. See: Environment Canada. 2012. Recovery Strategy for the Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster (Symphyotrichum laurentianum) in Canada. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Environment Canada, Ottawa. v + 18 pp. |

1. **Assessment Details – KBA Trigger Ecosystems:** None
2. **Delineation Rationale:**

The KBA boundary is defined by the existing IBA boundary (NB021). To avoid overlapping KBAs the above trigger elements will be added to the existing IBA. An alternate KBA for plant elements only could be considered.

1. **Additional Site Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rationale for site nomination** | Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster is a rare annual plant endemic to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which occurs in coastal habitats of New Brunswick Prince Edward Island and Magdalen Islands (Quebec) (COSEWIC, 2004). Its global distribution is limited to less than 30 extant sites with a total area of occupancy of much less than five square kilometers (Environment Canada, 2012). Due to the dynamic nature of its habitat populations are subject to natural fluctuations in size and populations may not be detected every year due to severe storm events. However, surveys in recent years have seen a dramatic decline of population sizes across its range (Environment Canada, 2012). There are three occurrences of the Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster on Miscou Island: Windsors Malbaie, Miscou Lighthouse (Lac Frye) and the newly discovered Big Lake site (AC CDC database, accessed 2020). The Miscou Lighthouse site was considered historic in the COSEWIC Status Report (2004) but a targeted survey in 2016 estimated a total of nearly 56,000 individuals (AC CDC database, accessed 2020). For references see: MiscouIslandKBAProposal\_supplement.docx |
| **Biodiversity elements that were assessed but did not meet KBA criteria** | *-* |
| **Other significant biodiversity elements** | Salt Marsh Copper (Lycaena dospassosi, G3, N2N3) |
| **Percent of site covered by protected areas** | 1-10% |
| **Customary jurisdiction at site** | - |
| **Ongoing conservation actions** | Site/area protection |
| **Ongoing threats** | Climate change & severe weather; Human intrusions & disturbance; Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases |
| **Additional conservation actions needed** | Site/area protection |

**Questions for Reviewers**

If you run out of space for any of your answers to questions 5-11, please expand the text box by clicking it and then pulling the bottom border downwards.

*Required information for review completion:*

1. Name 

2. Email address 

3. Phone number (optional) 

4. I understand and agree that my name and contact information may be provided to additional reviewers indicating that I provided a technical review of this KBA





5. Are the global values (or national, for national-scale KBAs) used in the threshold calculation accurate and adequately documented?





*Additional comments*

6. Are the site-level estimates for each assessment parameter accurate and adequately documented?







7. Is it reasonable to assume that the KBA trigger element (species or ecosystem) is present at the site and has been correctly identified?







8. Is the proposed KBA boundary appropriate and at a useful scale to focus conservation efforts?







9. If they have been provided, are the mapped distributions of the biodiversity elements realistic?







*Additional information for review:*

10. If you are familiar with the site, please comment on the site description and provide any other information that may help its documentation and conservation, including about:

* ongoing conservation actions being applied to the site
* conservation actions needed at the site
* additional biodiversity elements at the site
* relevant information about customary jurisdiction(s) of the site (i.e. traditional territories, landowners, etc.)
* threats to the persistence of biodiversity at the site (pertaining to the trigger species or in general)



11. Any other comments?

