Tips for handling and releasing Wolffish

Crab Fishing

The Species at Risk Act

Two of the three wolffish species found in waters of Atlantic Canada are at risk of becoming extinct. The third species is of Special Concern.

A new Canadian ‘Species at Risk’ law protects these species. This new law was created to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct, but no single group or organization can ensure the recovery of a species. We all have a part to play.

Wolffish are incidentally caught in some of the most common fishing gears used throughout Atlantic Canada. Proper handling and quick release of wolffish back into the water improves their chances of survival.

Like all animals, wolffish play an important role in the ecosystem of the ocean and their survival depends on all of us working together.
Tips for handling and releasing Wolfish

Crab Fishing

When possible, release wolfish directly into the water

Use a sorting table to remove wolfish from catch

Handle wolfish gently and avoid touching the gills

Release wolfish as quickly as possible

Avoid using sharp instruments such as gaffs and knives when handling wolfish.
If you do not want to handle a wolfish or it is a large wolfish use a dip net to release the fish.
Avoid dropping wolfish on to hard surfaces.

Northern Wolfish
Spotted Wolfish
Striped Wolfish

For more information please contact your nearest DFO Office or visit: