

## 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 those 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.*



Photo: Andrew J. Martinez



# Tips for handling and releasing Wolffish

## Crab Fishing

*When possible, release wolffish directly into the water*



*Use a sorting table to remove wolffish from catch*



*Handle wolffish gently and avoid touching the gills*



*Release wolffish as quickly as possible*

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

*Avoid dropping wolffish on to hard surfaces.*



**Northern Wolffish**



**Spotted Wolffish**



**Striped Wolffish**

For more information please contact your nearest DFO Office or visit:  
[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) [www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca) [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)