



Tips for handling and releasing Wolffish

Gillnetting

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



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Wolffish should be removed from nets before going through hauler



Use a sorting table



It may be necessary to cut the mesh in order to release a tangled wolffish safely

Handle wolffish gently and avoid touching the gills

Avoid using sharp instruments such as gaffs and knives when handling wolffish.

Avoid dropping wolffish on to hard surfaces. Soaking times should be kept to a minimum.

If you do not want to handle a wolffish or it is a large wolffish use a dip net to release the fish.

Use no more nets than can be hauled in a reasonable amount of time. Release wolffish as quickly as possible.



Northern Wolffish



Spotted Wolffish



Striped Wolffish