

Atlantic Wolffish

Anarhichas lupus



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Species Description

The Atlantic Wolffish is a large olive-green to purplish brown, elongated bottom-dwelling fish that grows to 1.5 m in length. It has a large, rounded head, and large, prominent teeth. It has a long, continuous dorsal fin from the back of its head to its tail, large fan-like pectoral fins, and no pelvic fins. It can be distinguished from other wolffish species by the 9-13 vertical stripes along the sides of its body and firm flesh.



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Key ID Features: * 9-13 stripes along sides * firm flesh

STATUS

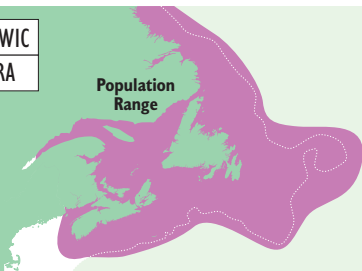


Special Concern COSEWIC

Special Concern SARA

Found in deep, cold waters of the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. It is found throughout the waters off Nova Scotia including the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Scotian Shelf, and the Bay of Fundy. It has declined by 96% on the Scotian Shelf since 1982.

Population Range



Interesting Points

- Its large crushing teeth are designed to feed on hard-shelled invertebrates.
- Males stop feeding for up to four months to guard eggs laid in crevices between large boulders.



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Threats

- Incidental capture (bycatch) in commercial fisheries.
- Fishing gear (bottom trawls and dredges) can alter or destroy habitat, and create sedimentation that smothers nesting sites and damages gills.

Learn how you can help on page 136.



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Wolffish release

Contacts, Information & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes, www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Stewardship: Wolffish: A Balance of Life video: www.intervale.ca/video.html