

Marine Species at Risk

Marine species are sometimes forgotten because few people are fortunate enough to see them. There is an incredible diversity of marine life in the coastal and offshore waters around Nova Scotia. However, some of these species are in decline and in trouble. The ocean is vast and mysterious but at the same time

How You Can Help

Purchase sustainably caught seafood

Make sustainable and smart seafood choices. Purchase locally caught sustainable seafood in your community or visit the following sites for more information:

SeaChoice: www.seachoice.org. Provides seafood rankings for commercial fish, regions, and gear types.

Marine Stewardship Council: www.msc.org. Certified sustainable seafood program.

Off the Hook: www.offthehookcsf.ca. A fishery cooperative supported by Nova Scotians interested in purchasing seafood harvested using low-impact fishing gear.

Encourage the use of fishing solutions that reduce bycatch

Bycatch refers to non-target species that are incidentally caught in fishing gear, including fish, marine mammals and sea turtles. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization estimate that worldwide almost 30 million tons of dead fish are discarded annually as bycatch. There are many fishermen in Nova Scotia that work to disentangle species and are helping to develop bycatch reduction initiatives. Learn more at www.smartgear.org and www.howwefish.ca.



School of Bluefin Tuna

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Leatherback Turtle

© CANADIAN SEA TURTLE NETWORK

The following pages highlight the 29 marine species at risk that are found in the waters off Nova Scotia. Learn more about them and how you can help!



extremely vulnerable. Although some see it as an infinite, indestructible resource, human activities endanger its habitats, processes and diversity of life. Everyone's actions, however small individually, can have a powerful collective effect....you can help.



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Reduce marine debris

Marine species can become entangled in ocean debris and often mistakenly identify plastic floating in the water as food, causing major health problems for it and any species that feeds on it. Many plastics do not biodegrade to any significant degree, but rather break down into smaller and smaller "microplastics", causing problems throughout the entire food chain. You can help by limiting your plastic use, conscientiously purchasing products made with less packaging, ensuring all your garbage is disposing of properly, and by participating in beach clean-ups.

Report sightings!

Report stranded, injured, or dead marine mammals to the Marine Animal Response Society (MARS): www.marineanimals.ca, 1-866-567-6277
Report sea turtle sightings to the Canadian Sea Turtle Network: www.seaturtle.ca, 1-888-729-4667

Report shark sightings to the Shark Identification Network: www.sharkidnetwork.com, 1-866-567-6277

Any tagged animals observed (striped bass, skates, sturgeon, etc.) should be reported to the information on the tag.

Volunteer your time

Check out the stewardship line in the contact box on each species page and join one of the organizations in Nova Scotia delicately working on marine issues.



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Fin Whale being rescued