

Spotted Wolffish

Anarhichas minor



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Species Description

The Spotted Wolffish is a large yellowish to dark 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 dark spots along the sides of its body and firm flesh.



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Wolffish release

Key ID Features: * dark spots along body * firm flesh

STATUS



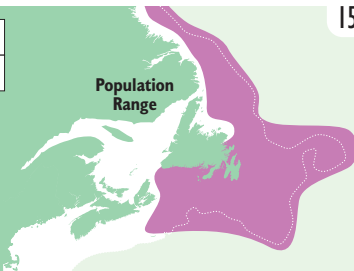
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Found in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. In Canada, it is most common in the waters off Newfoundland and Labrador. Occasionally observed on northeastern sections of the Scotian Shelf and off Cape Breton. Declined by over 90%.

Population Range



157

Interesting Points

- Tagging studies have observed that this species generally travels 8 km or less throughout its life.
- It takes 7-10 years for a wolffish to reproduce.

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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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