

**Wolffish, also called catfish, are now protected under the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*. Releasing wolffish will help their populations to recover.**



**Numbers of all three wolffish species have declined off eastern Canada during the past two decades. Threats to wolffish include bycatch mortality in commercial fisheries and disturbance to marine habitat.**

### **Northern wolffish**

(wolffish, broadhead wolffish, bull-headed catfish, broad-headed catfish, Arctic wolffish, jelly-cat)

- Small head relative to body
- Small pectoral fins and gill openings
- Jelly-like flesh and muscle

**Conservation status: Threatened**



### **Spotted wolffish**

(catfish, spotted catfish, leopardfish)

- Large head relative to body
- Dark spots
- Firm flesh and muscle

**Conservation status: Threatened**

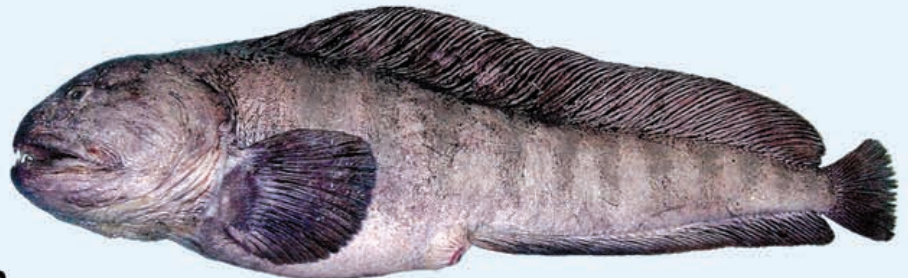


### **Atlantic or striped wolffish**

(catfish, ocean wolffish)

- Large head relative to body
- Vertical stripes
- Firm flesh and muscle

**Conservation status: Special Concern**



Help determine the distribution and abundance of wolffish. Record all bycatch by species in log books. For further information, call Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

**1-866-266-6603.**

**Thank you!**

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# Federal law protects wolffish and their habitat.



The *Species at Risk Act*, a new federal law, was proclaimed in June 2003 for the purpose of protecting and managing species that are classified as extirpated, endangered, threatened, or special concern.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) recommends species to include on the List of Wildlife Species at Risk. COSEWIC may classify species as:

**Extinct:** no longer exists anywhere

**Extirpated:** no longer exists in Canada

**Endangered:** facing imminent extinction or extirpation

**Threatened:** likely to become endangered if threats continue  
(Northern and spotted wolffish)

**Special Concern:** particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events  
(Striped wolffish)

**Help get wolffish off the List.  
Release wolffish with care and in the  
place where they were caught.**

**All wolffish have powerful jaws.**

***Take care when releasing.***



Spotted wolffish