



SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 2002

Reporting Wolffish by Species in the NAFO Regulatory Area

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Abstract

Three wolffish species have recently been listed by COSEWIC as species at risk. The species are a common bycatch in the Regulatory area and thus fishing mortality has a n impact on the recovery of the species. In order to quantify this impact, fishery removals need to be quantified by reporting landings by species. Currently, wolffish are not reported by species or at all.

Background

The jurisdictional body for Canada is:

COSEWIC, COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF ENDANGERED WILDLIFE IN CANADA

Its role is to o assess the status of species suspected to be at risk nationally, to report the list of species at risk and its findings to the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council, and subsequently to make the list public. Species are classified as:

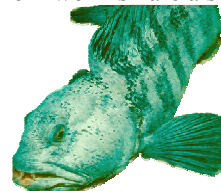
- "Endangered Species" means a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction
- "Threatened Species" means a wildlife species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction
- "Species of Special Concern" means a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats
- "Extirpated Species" means a wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild.

Wolffish have been recently listed and as a result, a recovery plan is required for these species. One important aspect is the impact of fishing on the species.

Thus, it is requested that countries fishing in the NRA report catches of wolffish by species. The 3 three species that can be encountered in Div. 3LMNO are shown below (note that northern wolffish are a solid dark colour).



Northern (broadhead) Wolffish
Threatened (Note: Most
northern wolffish are a solid colour).



Striped Wolffish
Special Concern



Spotted Wolffish
Threatened