

Anarhichas lupus (Atlantic Wolffish)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Actinopterygii* (Ray-finned Fishes)

Order: *Perciformes* (Perch-like Fishes)

Family: *Anarhichadidae* (Wolffishes)

General comments:

ESA Species of Concern - Georges Bank & western Gulf of Maine;

General information: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/fish/atlanticwolffish.htm>

No Species Conservation Range Maps Available for Atlantic Wolffish

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Anarhichas lupus is listed as a Species of Concern by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Recent Significant Declines:

Atlantic Wolffish is currently undergoing steep population declines, which has already led to, or if unchecked is likely to lead to, local extinction and/or range contraction.

Notes:

Recent significant declines: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/species/atlanticwolffish_detailed.pdf

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority: NA

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa:

Recently documented or poorly surveyed rare species for which risk of extirpation is potentially high (e.g. few known occurrences) but insufficient data exist to conclusively assess distribution and status. *criteria only qualifies for Priority 3 level SGCN*

Notes:

Recent significant declines: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/species/atlanticwolffish_detailed.pdf

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Atlantic Wolffish:

Formation Name	Subtidal
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Bedrock Bottom
Habitat System Name:	Bedrock Bottom Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System **Primary Habitat**
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Coarse Gravel Bottom
Habitat System Name:	Coarse Gravel Bottom Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System **Primary Habitat**
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Sand Bottom
Habitat System Name:	Unvegetated

Stressors Assigned to Atlantic Wolffish:

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Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Biological Resource Use

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Commercial fishing for, landing, or take of Atlantic wolffish is not permitted in Maine waters, but some bycatch likely occurs. Wolffish are caught in lobster traps and can be released live if handled properly.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Human Intrusions and Disturbance

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Recreational Activities

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Recreational fishing for, landing, or take of Atlantic wolffish is not permitted in Maine waters, but some bycatch likely occurs. Wolffish are caught in during recreational fishing trips targeting groundfish and can be released live if handled properly.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: As a coldwater species, changes in habitat associated with climate change and other environmental variables may limit the ability of the population to reach its potential, and may cause shifts in range or range truncation.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Temperature Extremes

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: As a coldwater species, changes in habitat associated with climate change and other environmental variables may limit the ability of the population to reach its potential, and may cause shifts in range or range truncation.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Oil and Gas Drilling

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: There is potential for offshore oil spills in the Gulf of Maine from tankers. The use of oil dispersants increases the effect on groundfish and pelagic species by increasing the toxicity of oil globules, though the exact effects are not well documented.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Atlantic Wolffish:

None. ***Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.***

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

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Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.