



Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF)  
1-877-461-3427

# Marine Species at Risk Identification Chart Gulf of St. Lawrence – Magdalen Islands

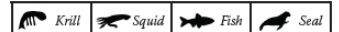


## WHALES

Species	Conservation Status	Key Features	Size	Blow	Dorsal Fin	Special Behaviour	Diet
<b>Blue Whale</b>	Endangered	huge blowhole, broad, flat U-shaped head, mottled blue-grey colour, very thick tail stock	Adult 24-27 m Newborn 7-8 m Group: 1-2	9m			Crustaceans
<b>Fin Whale</b>	Special Concern	V-shaped head, grey patch on right side, pointed dorsal fin, light spots, thick tail stock, white underside, short flippers, front baleen plates white on right side	Adult 18-22 m Newborn 6 m Group: 3-7	5m		Tail rarely seen	Crustaceans, Fish
<b>Humpback Whale</b>		low, stubby dorsal fin, hump, narrow tail stock, broad flukes and S-shaped edge, large stocky body, U-shaped head with rows of knobs, long white pectoral fins	Adult 12-15 m Newborn 4-5 m Group: 1-3	3m		Each with a unique colouration underneath	Crustaceans, Fish
<b>North Atlantic Right Whale</b>	Endangered Very rare in this area	no dorsal fin, wide triangular flukes, narrow tail stock, very robust body, large flippers, arched mouth, raised skin patches	Adult 11 - 18 m Newborn 5 - 6 m Group: 1 - 20	5m	No dorsal fin		Crustaceans
<b>Sperm Whale</b>		slit-like blowhole, small eyes, triangular hump, 'knuckles' between hump and fluke, grey or off-white underside, short, stubby flippers	Adult 11-18m Newborn 3.5-4.5m Group: 1-150	2m	No dorsal fin (triangular hump)		Crustaceans, Fish
<b>Minke Whale</b>		curved dorsal fin, narrow and very pointed head, white band on flippers may vary in size, white, pale grey or brown underside, pointy fluke tips	Adult 7 - 10 m Newborn 3 m Group: single	2m		Tail rarely seen	Crustaceans, Fish
<b>Killer Whale/Orca</b>	Special Concern	grey saddle patch, white patch, rounded head, large paddle-shaped flippers, white underside, very tall dorsal fin set a mid-body	Adult 5.5 - 10 m Newborn 2 - 2.5 m Group: 3-25	4m	(Female fin is more curved and shorter)		Fish, Seal
<b>Pilot Whale</b>		short dorsal fin, white diagonal stripe behind eye, forehead may overhang beak, W-shaped greyish white patch on throat, long, slender flippers	Adult 3.8-6m Newborn 1.8-2m Group: 1-100	Strong blow, more than 1m high, often heard and sometimes visible	male, female	don't usually jump	Crustaceans, Fish
<b>Beluga Whale</b>	Threatened	dorsal ridge instead of fin, small bulbous head and a short beak, broad mouth line, broad flippers, light body colour	Adult 3-5 m Newborn 1.5 m Group: 5-20	Low and hardly visible	No dorsal fin (dorsal ridge)		Fish, Crustaceans

Illustrations by Martin Camm from "Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises", Dorling Kindersley Handbooks Editions, London, 1995, 256 pages

Marine Species at Risk (MSAR) are indicated by their status: endangered, threatened or special concern (2009).



# DOLPHINS AND PORPOISE

Species	Size	Dorsal Fin	Special Behaviour	Diet
<b>White-Beaked Dolphin</b> 	Adult 2.5-3m Newborn 1-1.5m Group: 2-3			
<b>Atlantic White-Sided Dolphin</b> 	Adult 2-2.5m Newborn 1-1.5m Group: 5-50			
<b>Harbour Porpoise</b> Special Concern <p style="text-align: right;">*often seen with Humpback and Fin Whales</p>	Adult 1.5-2 m Newborn 67-85 cm Group: single		Don't usually jump 	

Illustrations by Martin Camm from "Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises", Dorling Kindersley Handbooks Editions, London, 1995, 256 pages



## WOLFFISH (90cm - 1.5m / 35.4 - 59 inches)

<b>Spotted Wolffish</b> Threatened 	<b>Habitat:</b> ocean waters from 50-600 metres deep on sand or mud bottoms <b>Characteristics:</b> firm flesh and muscles, dark spots
<b>Northern Wolffish</b> Threatened 	<b>Habitat:</b> ocean waters from 0-900 metres deep <b>Characteristics:</b> soft-jelly musculature
<b>Atlantic Wolffish</b> Special Concern 	<b>Habitat:</b> rocky or dark clay bottoms of deep ocean waters <b>Characteristics:</b> vertical stripes

Northern and Spotted Wolffish illustrations from <http://www.speciesatrisk.qc.ca>.  
 Atlantic Wolffish illustration from <http://www.state.me.us/dmr/recreational/fishes/wolffish.htm>

## SEA TURTLE (1 - 2m / 39.4 - 78.7 inches)

<b>Leatherback Seaturtle</b> Endangered 	<b>Diet:</b> jellyfish
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Illustration by F.W Scott (Nova Scotia Leatherback Turtle Working Group)

**If you see an animal in distress, stranded or entangled in fishing gear, please call QLF at 1-877-461-3427 or DFO at 418-986-2095**

## RELEASE TECHNIQUES

Whales	Sea Turtles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you see a whale entangled in fishing gear please do not attempt to release the animal. Approaching a large animal who is nervous and unpredictable could put you at risk.</li> <li>Record your location on the water, note the whale's direction of travel and call the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at (418) 986-2095 or the Quebec-Labrador Foundation at 1-877-461-3427 (24 hours a day).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scan lines for turtles before retrieving. If possible, move the vessel slowly toward the turtle to minimize tension.</li> <li>Stop and idle the vessel when the sea turtle reaches the side of the boat.</li> <li>Assess the sea turtle's size, condition and cause of entanglement in fishing gear.</li> <li>Do not use gaffs or other sharp objects to retrieve the sea turtle. Devices such as hoists, dip nets and a car tire should be kept onboard.</li> <li>Take photographs of the turtle if possible – especially the pink markings on its head. If you find any tags or radio transmitters, report this to the Quebec-Labrador Foundation.</li> </ul> <p><b>A turtle with a shell less than 1m (3ft) in length:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a dip net to bring the sea turtle carefully onboard.</li> <li>Keep the sea turtle wet and away from direct sunlight.</li> <li>Immobilize the sea turtle by placing it on a car tire.</li> <li>Remove or cut all gear, lines and hooks from the sea turtle.</li> <li>Allow the sea turtle to relax on the deck if it seems weak.</li> <li>Release the sea turtle into the water away from fishing gear.</li> </ul> <p><b>A turtle with a shell greater than 1m (3ft) in length or those in unsafe conditions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let the sea turtle calm down at the surface.</li> <li>Act quickly and bring the sea turtle as close as possible using a branch line or tether pole.</li> <li>Cut all lines and monitor the sea turtle's swimming.</li> </ul> <p>* A comotose sea turtle should be revived by placing it on its bottom shell, lifting the back slightly to drain its lungs and keeping it wet. Revival can take some time.</p>
<b>Wolffish</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid handling wolffish if possible – their teeth can cause severe injury.</li> <li>If you must handle a wolffish, wet your hands, release the wolffish as soon as possible and place it into the water head first.</li> <li>Release wolffish where they were caught - they have a specific area of the ocean bottom that is their territory.</li> </ul>	