



CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER

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## August 2022 Newsletter





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Dear Supporter,

We hope you have been enjoying the nice weather and taking the time to get outside and enjoy nature. Here are some updates of what we have been up to, scroll down to read more!

## Puffin Patrol Suspended for 2022 Season

Due to the uncertainty of the Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Puffin and Petrel Patrol and the public collection of birds has been suspended. You can learn more about this difficult decision [here](#).

Our CPAWS-NL Hotline is for reporting juvenile puffins (pufflings) sightings in the Witless Bay and immediate surrounding areas. Please let us know of any puffin sightings you have – dead or alive. You can call or text **709-327-5365** to report any puffling sightings.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) have a dedicated line for reporting other dead, sick or injured bird species. You can call or text **709-658-7273** to report any non-puffin bird sightings.

Remember to avoid direct contact with any wild birds and surfaces that may be contaminated with saliva or feces!

Please be patient as all agencies are working to clean up as fast as they can. Areas with large numbers of birds being found are currently being prioritized.



Hi! I'm Taylor Brown, a PhD student studying puffin light attraction and strandings. This year, with the support of CPAWS-NL and the Canadian Wildlife Service

(CWS), I will be doing an experiment on a couple beaches around Witless Bay.

For this experiment I will be shining lights out over the water from Ragged Beach and Lower Pond to see if I am able to attract puffins to the land. This experiment may look suspicious when you're out and about at night but please don't be alarmed! It has been thoroughly reviewed and approved by animal ethics experts and the CWS and there will be lots of trained biologists helping to make sure the puffins are alright.

Of course, the current avian flu situation is top of mind, so we will ensure the birds are kept physically distanced and released promptly, and we will even test them for the virus.

Please don't approach us as we're doing the experiment!

I'm more than happy to answer any questions you have, or to chat about my project, so feel free to email me at [taylorbrown@trentu.ca](mailto:taylorbrown@trentu.ca)



## Where has Baleen Been?!

This month we had the chance to go to Gros Morne and visit the [Bonne Bay Aquarium](#), with Baleen, CPAWS' whale mascot!

We had a great time handing out marine species guidebooks and stickers to promote citizen science initiatives, such as reporting marine species sightings! Did you manage to grab any stickers before we ran out?!

Don't forget to report any marine species sightings at [cpawsnl.org/citizenscience](http://cpawsnl.org/citizenscience)

Baleen was also out and about enjoying the warm weather there, and exploring the coastline!



## Nature Feature: Wolffish

Did you know that Newfoundland and Labrador have 3 species of wolffish: the Atlantic (Striped) Wolffish, the Spotted Wolffish, and the Northern Wolffish.

Wolffish are great mates to one-another and stay true to only one partner. The males protect the nest of eggs from predators until they hatch while the females hunt for food. Wolffish and their habitat have an important role in regulating ocean ecosystems. They love to snack on sea urchins and green crabs, whose populations escalate rapidly and can have negative effects on the marine environment.

It's scary how fast Wolffish populations throughout Eastern Canada have been steadily declining over the past 20 years. This is largely because of disturbances to their natural habitat and a significant amount of Wolffish being caught as bycatch in commercial fisheries. Wolffish are also vulnerable to threats because unlike fish who lay millions of eggs, Wolffish lay only 5000- 12,000 eggs in their lifetime of 20 years!

All species of wolffish are protected under the Species at Risk Act due to these threats. You can help the Wolffish population by Reduce plastic use and ensure plastic and other garbage are properly disposed of or recycled. Since 2004, all Wolffish accidentally caught during any fisheries must be released, quickly, without harm to the Wolffish, and at the site of capture.

CPAWS-NL has been working closely on projects aimed to improve Wolffish population and awareness. You can learn more about wolffish [here](#), and report any wolffish sightings at [cpawsnl.org/wolffish](http://cpawsnl.org/wolffish)!

## Share your thoughts!

Do you have any great stories about experiences in nature, environmental events or other topics that you would like to see published on our blog or newsletter? Have any thoughts or ideas about the new newsletter format? Pitch your ideas to us at [csimmons@cpaws.org](mailto:csimmons@cpaws.org)!

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or issues that you many have. Send us an [email](#), give us a call at 709-726-5800, or [visit our website](#) to find out how to [volunteer](#) or make a [donation](#). Also, if you're interested in keeping up to date on what's new and exciting at CPAWS-NL follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for regular updates.

All the best,

CPAWS Newfoundland and Labrador Team

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