Glossary

Term	Definition
Anal Fin	A fin located on the underside of a fish behind the anus that helps provide stability while swimming.
Anemone	A marine invertebrate that uses tentacles to capture prey.
Aquaculture	The farming of fish, shellfish, algae, and other aquatic organisms in freshwater or marine environments.
Bait Fisheries	Fisheries that harvest species to be used as bait in commercial or recreational fishing.
Baleen Whales	Whales that feed by using baleen plates to filter plankton and small organisms from the water.
Ballast Water	Water carried in tanks by vessels to improve stability and balance.
Beam Trawl	A fishing net held open by a rigid beam and towed along the seafloor.
Benthic Species	Species that live on, in or near the bottom of a waterbody.
Boat Hull	The main body of a boat that floats on the water.
Bottom Longline	Fishing gear consisting of a main line with baited hooks set on or near the seafloor.
Bottom Otter Trawl	A cone-shaped net towed along the seafloor using otter boards to keep it open.
Bottom Set Gillnet	A gillnet anchored to the seafloor to catch fish.
Bottom Set Longline	A longline with baited hooks weighted to remain near the seafloor.
Bottom Trawling	A fishing method that drags a net along the seafloor.
Caudal Fin	The tail fin of a fish, used primarily for propulsion.
Crab Pot	A baited pot-shaped trap that sits on the seafloor and is designed to catch crabs.
Coral Polyp	A small marine animal that forms the building blocks of coral reefs.

Crustacean	An animal with a hard external skeleton, such as a crab, lobster, or shrimp.
Dorsal Fin	The fin located on the back of a fish or whale that helps maintain balance.
Dredging	The dragging of a dredge along the seafloor to collect or harvest marine organisms.
Echinoderms	Marine invertebrates including sea stars, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers.
Emerging Fishery	A fishery targeting a new or underutilized species with limited management history.
Erosion	The natural process by which soil or rock is worn away by water, wind, or other forces.
Estuary	A coastal area where freshwater mixes with seawater.
Exoskeleton	A hard external covering that provides support and protection.
Exploratory Fishery	A fishery conducted to gather information about a species or fishing opportunity.
Fertilization	The fusion of male and female reproductive cells to produce offspring.
Filter Feeder	An organism that feeds by filtering small particles from the water.
Fish Population	A group of individuals of the same species living in a particular area.
Fish School	A group of fish swimming together in a coordinated manner.
Fishery Biomass	The total amount of a fish population within a defined area.
Forked Tail	A tail shape in which the outer sections are longer than the center, giving a fork appearance.
Gillnets	Vertical nets that catch fish when they become trapped behind their gills.
Gills	Respiratory organs that allow fish and some aquatic animals to breath.
Groundfish	Marine species that live and feed on or near the seafloor.
Hakapiks	A tool traditionally used in seal harvesting.

Handlines	A fishing line operated by hand with one or more hooks attached.
Harpoon	A spear-like tool used to harvest marine animals.
Incubate	To maintain eggs under suitable conditions until they hatch.
Invertebrates	Animals that do not have a backbone.
Jiggers	Fishing gear that uses hooks attached to artificial lures to catch fish.
Juvenile Fish	A young fish that has not reached reproductive maturity.
Larvae	An early developmental stage of many marine organisms before adulthood.
Lateral Line	A specialized sensory system that detects vibrations, water movement, and pressure changes in the surrounding environment. It is visible as a line running along the sides of many fish and helps them navigate, avoid predators, and locate prey.
Management Measures	Rules and tools used to achieve fisheries management and conservation objectives.
Microorganisms	Living organisms too small to be seen by the naked eye.
Midwater Otter Trawl	A trawl net towed through the water column rather than along the seabed.
Mollusk	A soft-bodied invertebrate such as a clam, mussel, squid, or octopus.
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)	NAFO is the organization responsible for fisheries conservation and management of most fish stocks beyond the Canadian 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Northwest Atlantic.
Otter Trawl	A trawl net held open by otter boards while being towed by a vessel.
Pectoral Fin	A fin located on either side of a fish behind the head.
Pelagic species	A marine species that lives in the open water column above the seafloor.
Pelvic Fin	A paired fin located on the underside of a fish that aids movement and balance.
Plankton	Small drifting organisms that form the

	base of many aquatic food webs.
Predator	An animal that hunts and eats other animals.
Prey	An animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal.
Pupping (Seals)	The period during which seals give birth to and care for their young.
Purse Seine	A large net that surrounds a school of fish and closes at the bottom.
Rod and Reel	A fishing method using a rod, reel, line, and hook.
Rorqual Whale	A family of baleen whales that includes blue, fin, humpback, and minke whales.
Scavenger	Species that feeds on dead or decaying organic matter.
Scuba Diving	The use of self-contained underwater breathing equipment while diving.
Sea Cucumber Drag	A drag or dredge used to harvest sea cucumbers from the seafloor.
Seal Pups	Young seals in the early stages of life.
Sediment	Particles of sand, mud, or organic matter that settle on the seafloor.
Seines	Fishing nets used to encircle and capture schools of fish.
Semi-Pelagic	Living partly near the seafloor and partly within the water column.
Shellfish	Aquatic invertebrates such as mollusks and crustaceans.
Spawning	The release of eggs and sperm for reproduction.
Swim Bladder	A gas-filled organ that helps fish control buoyancy.
Traps	Fishing gear designed to allow organisms to enter but make escape difficult.
Trawl Nets	Large fishing nets towed through the water or along the seafloor.
Vertical Barring	Vertical markings found on some fish that may provide camouflage from predators.
Waterfowl	Birds that spend much of their lives on or near water.
Zooplankton	Small drifting animals that live in the water column.