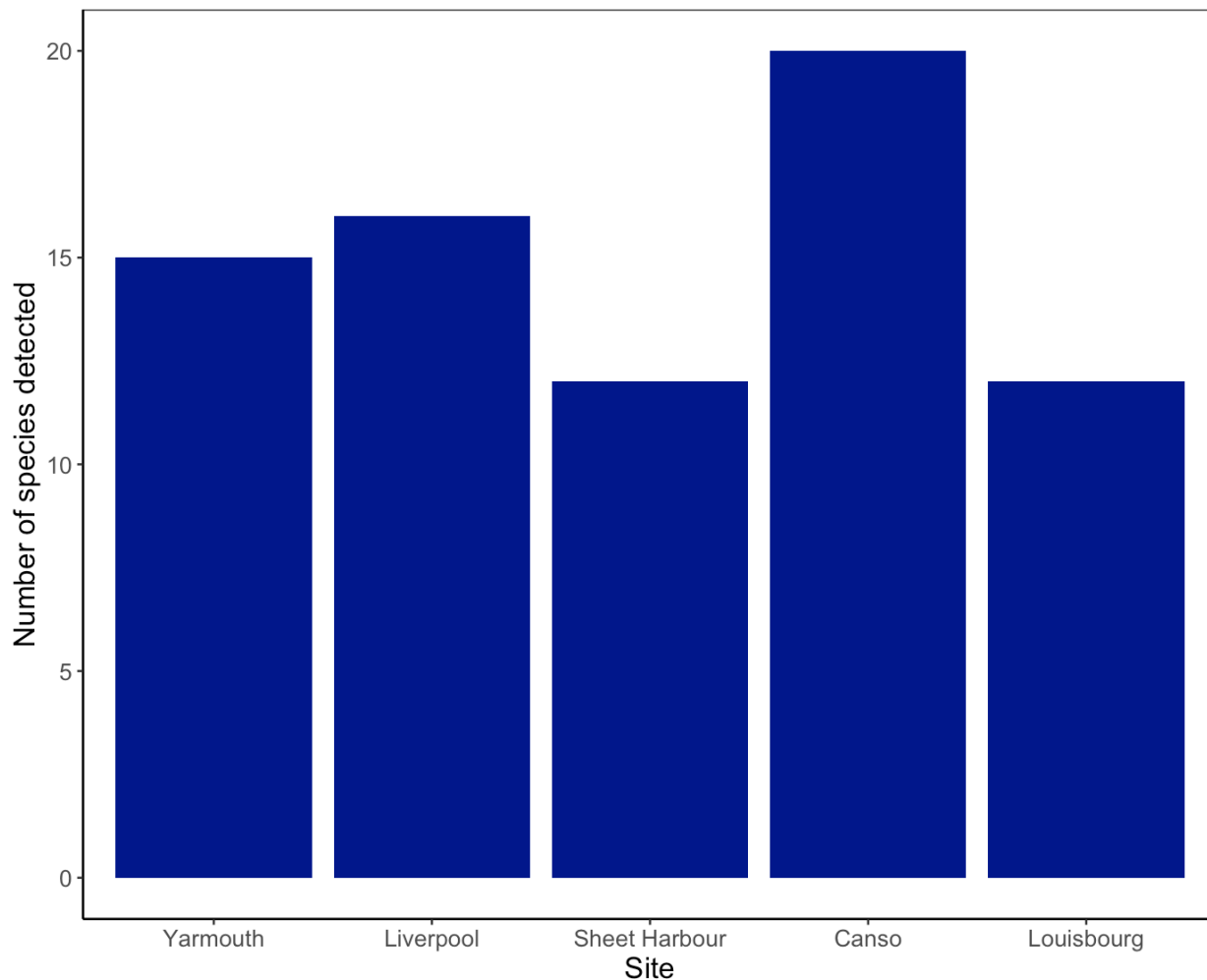


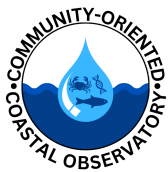
COCO results: Summer 2025

In August 2025, three eDNA samples were collected from coastal sites in each Yarmouth, Liverpool, Sheet Harbour, Canso, and Louisbourg. A total of **26** species were detected across these 15 samples.

With 20 unique species detections, **Canso** was the most diverse site sampled during the summer. See the bar plot below for a breakdown of the number of species detected at each site.



The following pages explore these detections in more detail.



Five species were detected at every site:

American Eel

Photo: Parks Canada



Atlantic Herring

Photo: Sea Choice



Atlantic Mackerel

Photo: Sea Choice



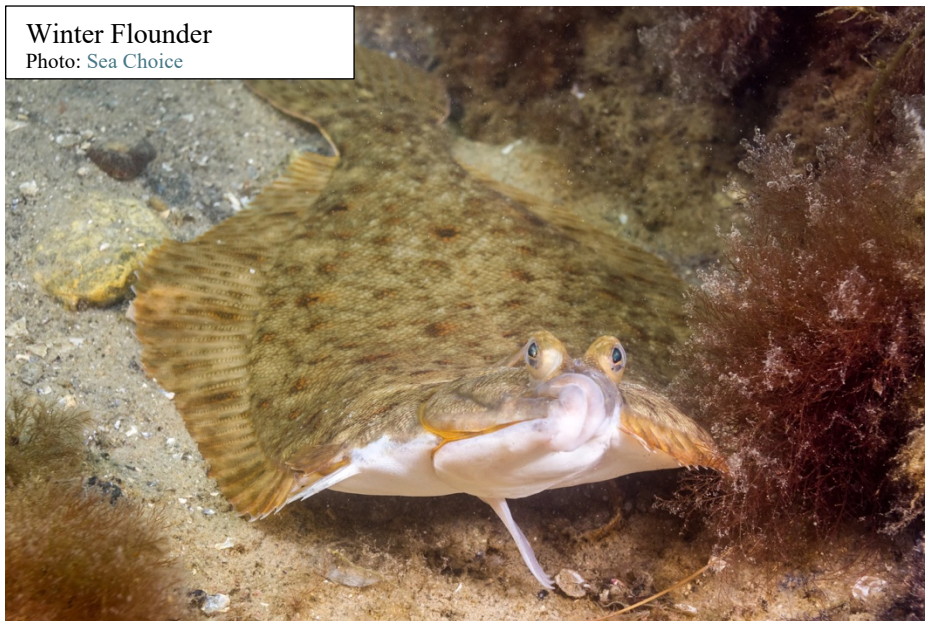
Gaspereau

Photo: DFO



Winter Flounder

Photo: Sea Choice

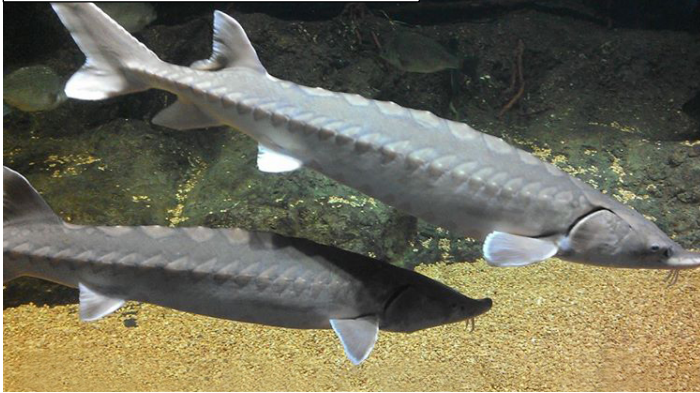




Five species were exciting to detect:

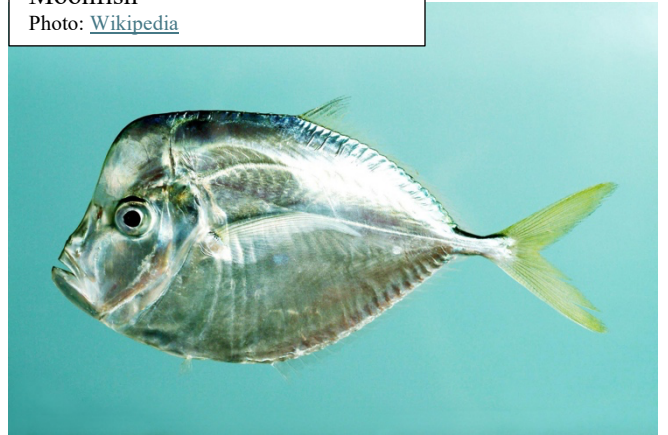
Atlantic Sturgeon

Photo: [NOAA](#)



Moonfish

Photo: [Wikipedia](#)



Butterfish

Photo: [B. Michelson](#)



Ocean Sunfish

Photo: [R. Friscione](#)

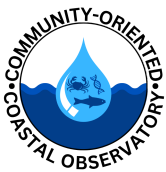


Snailfish

Photo: [Belaos](#)



Note: three different Snailfish (*Liparis sp.*) live in the waters around NS. The Atlantic Snailfish is pictured here.



We also detected some freshwater fish!

The Liverpool and Louisbourg samples were collected near a freshwater outflow, which could explain some of these detections. Our Canso sampling location (Black Duck Cove Provincial Park) seemed to be a fully marine site so these detections may be the result of lab or equipment contamination, or something else funky going on—if any Canso volunteers have an idea about why we detected freshwater species in Canso we'd love to hear it! Hopefully analysis of the fall 2025 samples will provide some clarity.

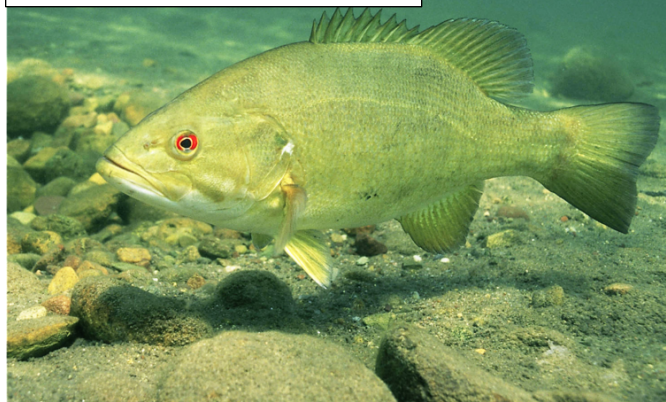
Chain Pickerel (invasive)

Photo: [OnWater](#)



Smallmouth Bass (invasive)

Photo: [USGS](#)



White Sucker

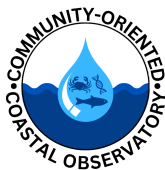
Photo: [Alavire](#)



Yellow Perch

Photo: [OnWater](#)





The following table contains the full species detections for each of the five sites:

Common name	Scientific name	Yarmouth	Liverpool	Sheet Harbour	Canso	Louisbourg
American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Atlantic Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Atlantic Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Atlantic Moonfish	<i>Selene setapinnis</i>		X		X	X
Atlantic Silverside	<i>Menidia menidia</i>	X				
Atlantic Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>		X		X	X
Atlantic Tomcod	<i>Microgadus tomcod</i>		X	X	X	X
Butterfish	<i>Peprilus sp.</i>	X			X	
Chain Pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>		X			X
Fourspine Stickleback	<i>Apeltes quadracus</i>		X		X	X
Gaspereau	<i>Alosa sp.</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Grubby Sculpin	<i>Myoxocephalus aeneus</i>	X			X	
Gunnel	<i>Pholis sp.</i>	X	X	X	X	
Menhaden	<i>Brevoortia sp.</i>	X			X	
Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>	X			X	
Pollock	<i>Pollachius virens</i>			X		
Sand Lance	<i>Ammodytes sp.; Ammodytidae sp.</i>			X		
Sculpin	<i>Myoxocephalus sp.</i>	X	X	X	X	
Sea Raven	<i>Hemitripterus americanus</i>	X	X		X	
Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>		X		X	
Snailfish	<i>Liparis sp.</i>			X		
White Hake	<i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	X				
White Sucker	<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>		X		X	X
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Wrymouth	<i>Cryptacanthodes maculatus</i>	X		X	X	
Yellow Perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>		X		X	X

The Fall 2025 samples will be analyzed in the new year and then volunteer-led sampling will happen in March of 2026.

Thank you all again so much for volunteering with COCO!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or comments about these detections.

Samantha Beal, Dec. 2025