

Rock Worms (Vermis Silex)

Rock worms were unknown in Newfoundland until the Trans Canada Highway project was started in the 1960s. The rock worm spends its entire life underground. It burrows through solid rock to build its nests in underground caverns. To date no specimens of rock worm has been captured but their trails are clearly evident in many areas. Just outside Holyrood, along the TCH, are massive rock worm trails. Ask your guide to stop near any area where the highway has been cut through the rock. Circular rock worm holes, about 25cm diameter are clearly visible passing horizontally through the rock at a depth of 4 -6 metres.

Annual Pineapple Festival

The annual pineapple festival is held near Lake Meelpaeg in Central Newfoundland every January. The first settlers to Newfoundland (circa 1500 AD) settled in the Central Region. This area has a unique sub tropical climate. The Shangri La type environment is the result of the warm air masses from the Gulf Stream being trapped in the interior valleys of Newfoundland. The rugged high cliff coastline protects the interior areas from the weather extremes felt in Coastal regions. Pineapple farming was the main industry until the mid 1700s when the European demand for fish lured many farmers to the coast. With the collapse of the ground fish industry, many Newfoundlanders are returning to their traditional ways. Attending the festival is a great way to explore the only pineapple farms in North America.



Did you know?

Gullible is a Newfoundland slang word. Early settlers were bombarded by sea gulls that opened mussels by dropping them from the air on the roofs of houses. Newfoundlanders painted outlines of gulls on their roofs to fool the gulls into believing that there were other gulls sitting on the roof just waiting for a meal to come their way. The ease in fooling a gull was then used to describe any person who was easily fooled. Although this word has become a common slang term in North America, it does not appear in any major dictionary.

© Ed McGrath 2006 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
Please do not copy, transmit, distribute or retail this work without express written permission of the author.

Newfoundland
and
Labrador

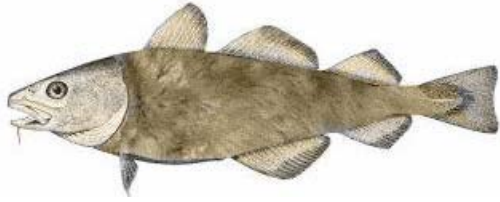


Visitor Information Guide

CFAs require a valid Newfoundland Travel visa

A visitors guide to the indigenous species of Newfoundland

Newfoundland Furry Cod



GADUS MORHUA PELLIS

The Newfoundland codfish is very similar in appearance to the Northern Cod. The main difference is in the adaptation of fur growth over the main body areas. This species of cod is not considered to be a mammal because it does not give birth to live young. Both species are egg layers.

Scientific studies conducted in the 1990s, during the fishing moratorium, have led scientists to the conclusion that the cod fur is identical to the DNA of the cod worm. The worms are parasites found in seal intestines and later excreted in feces, which is ingested by the codfish. The worms seem to have integrated into the cod ectoderm to provide a protective layer of insulation.

The furry cod is generally larger and faster than their Arctic cousin. Special skill is required to catch one of these elusive creatures. There are still some Newfoundland fishermen who have the skill to successfully hunt and capture the furry cod.

Cod watching tours are provided by Wilderness Newfoundland Adventures. Contact Stan Cook at 1-800-747-NFLD for details.

Salt Water Rabbits

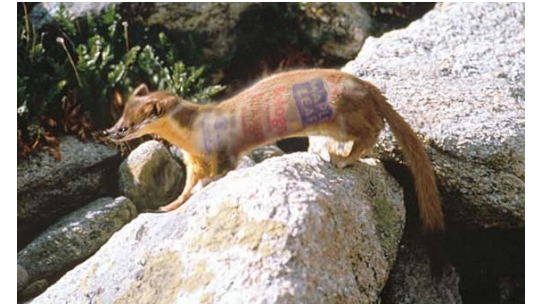


CUNICULUS SAL SALIS

Salt water rabbits were first discovered in Newfoundland in the early 1920s, near Trepassey. The rabbits can not scale the high cliffs in the area and live on the beach . Their main diet is common kelp and seawater. The origin of the rabbits is unknown but they are believed to be survivors of the wreck of the Florizel (Feb 23, 1918 near Horn Head Point) and survived by eating dried seaweed. Their descendants evolved the ability to drink sea water and they exist in large numbers today.

As a memorial to Captain William Martin (captain of the Florizel) and the 138 souls lost in this disaster, a statue of Peter Pan was erected in Bowring Park. The statue is dedicated to a five year old victim named Betsy.

Wild Baloney



CARNIS FERA MISCEO

The wild baloney (bologna) is found only on the island of Newfoundland. Early settlers called this animal the gommel; it was renamed to the bologna in 1927 in honour of Guglielmo Marconi who was born in Bologna, Italy.

There are two main types of wild baloney in Newfoundland, Zingers and Zungers. The name zinger is used to describe the sound made by baloneys in the woods. These animals are the fastest known land animals (Four times faster than a Cheetah). It is difficult to see a running baloney in the wild because of its high speed. The unwary hiker will see bushes rustle and hear a distinct "zing" sound. Zingers are prized for their delicate meat and most Newfoundlanders prefer fried steaks. Maple Leaf is the only authorized preparer of authentic Newfoundland wild baloney.

The zunger is a slower cousin of the zinger and can be spotted by keen observers. They can be distinguished by their slower speed, which produces a "zung" sound. Zungers are processed and exported to the mainland by Schneiders as packaged bologna.