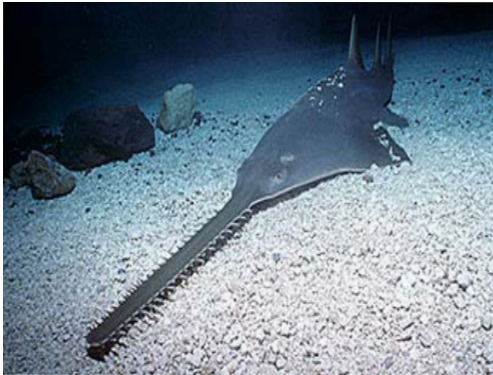


Please report any Smalltooth Sawfish encounter!



Sawfish are listed as endangered under the **Endangered Species Act**. Populations of this species are in decline, making **all information about this species invaluable**.

Why report a sawfish encounter?

Sawfish sighting reports are very important for the evaluation of the species abundance and habitat range and consequently for the success of the "Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Plan."

Where should I report a sawfish encounter?

The International Sawfish Encounter Database (ISED) was established as a sawfish tracking database to assist in sawfish conservation efforts.

Please report your information to:
George H. Burgess, Joana Fernandez de Carvalho
Tel: (352) 392-2360 Cell: (352) 871-8230

International Sawfish Encounter Database
Florida Program for Shark Research
Florida Museum of Natural History
Dickinson Hall Museum Road
PO Box 117800
Gainesville FL 3261-17800

sawfish@flmnh.ufl.edu

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/sawfish/>



You can help with the recovery of Smalltooth Sawfish populations by reporting your sawfish sightings or captures!



What information to report?

Your report can greatly help conservation efforts by providing the following information:

- Your name, phone number, and e-mail address
- Date, time and location of the encounter
- Number, size and behavior of the sawfish
- Your activity at time of encounter
- Information on any tags, scars, or distinguishing marks
- No records are too old - historic reports welcome!

Smalltooth Sawfish information

Biology:

- Sawfish are modified rays with shark-like bodies and gill slits on their ventral side.
- Commonly reach 18 feet in length, with a maximum length of 25 feet.

Habitat:

- Estuarine and coastal habitats such as bays, inlets, lagoons and rivers. May also occur in deeper waters.

Vulnerability to overexploitation:

- Susceptible to entanglement in fishing gear
- Low rate of population growth

Range Reduction:

- Historically the U.S. population ranged from New York to Texas. Currently it's range is primarily limited to waters off the Florida coast.

Notice to recreational and commercial fishers



Sawfish are listed as endangered under the **Endangered Species Act**, which makes it **illegal** to harm, harass, hook, or net sawfish in any way, except with a permit or in a permitted fishery.

Accidental captures do occur while fishing for other species. For your safety and the safety of the sawfish, **use caution** if you do hook or net a sawfish. They are large powerful animals that can cause serious injury.

DO NOT REMOVE THE SAW!

Sawfish safe release guidelines

If hooked:

- Keep sawfish in the water at all times.
- If it can be done safely, untangle the line if it is wrapped around the saw and remove as much of the line as possible.
- Cut line as close to the hook as possible.
- Do not handle the animal or attempt to remove any hooks on the saw unless you have a long-handled de-hooker.

If tangled in a net:

- Make every effort to free the animal from the net with minimal stress or injury.
- Keep sawfish, especially the gills, in the water as much as possible.
- Try to remove all the netting and release the animal quickly.