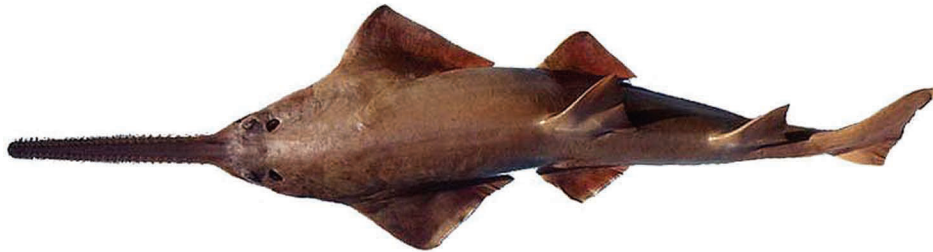


NOTICE TO RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHERS



Sawfish are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, which makes it illegal to harm, possess, harass, or handle them in any way. It is illegal to hook or net one, except with a permit or in a permitted fishery. Accidental captures do occur while fishing for other species; if a sawfish is hooked or netted, it should be released immediately. Remove as much fishing gear as safely as possible. **DO NOT REMOVE THE SAW.**

Sawfish Safe Release Guidelines

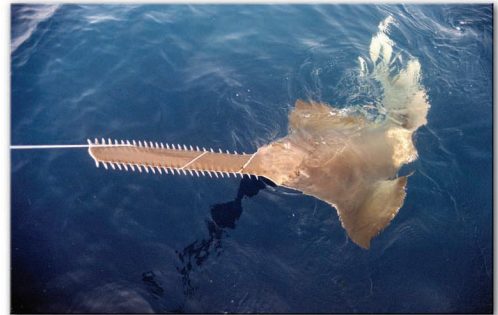
If hooked:

- 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 the 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 additional 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.

DO NOT REMOVE THE SAW!



WARNING: Sawfish are large powerful animals that can cause serious injury. For your safety and the safety of the sawfish, use caution if you do hook or net one of these animals.

Reporting a Sawfish Encounter

If you see or accidentally capture a sawfish, you can greatly help conservation efforts by contacting the National Sawfish Encounter Database, operated by the Florida Program for Shark Research at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida and providing the following information:

- Your name, phone number, and email address
- Date, time, and location of the encounter
- Number, size, and behavior of the sawfish during encounter
- Your activity at time of encounter
- Information on any tags, scars, or distinguishing marks
- If taken, photographs of the sawfish

Please report this information to either of the contacts below:

George H. Burgess
National Sawfish Encounter Database
Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida
Email: sawfish@flmnh.ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 392-2360



National
Sawfish
Encounter
Database



Gregg Poulakis
FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Email: sawfish@myfwc.com
Phone: (941) 255-7403

www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/sawfish