

SAWFISH

“THE WORLD’S MOST
ENDANGERED FISH”

SAWFISH FACTS

The length of the saw is between 20-28%
of the total body length.

Max 6 metres



Spends juvenile years in river estuaries.
As adults they live at sea.

The ‘saw’ is used for defense,
to detect prey, and stun/chop
up fish.

LARGETOOTH SAWFISH
Critically endangered

Sawfish may look scary but
you may be surprised to see
the bottom of its mouth is quite
harmless and their main diet
consists of fish, crustaceans
& molluscs.

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION

 **CURRENT**
 **HISTORICAL**



AUSTRALIA'S SAWFISH



Narrow sawfish
Endangered



Dwarf sawfish
Endangered

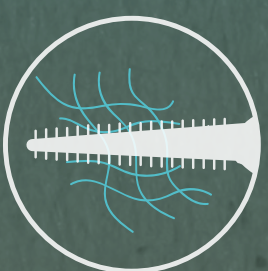


Largetooth sawfish
Critically endangered



Green sawfish
Critically endangered

THREATS & SOLUTIONS



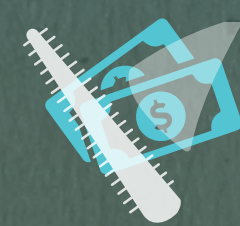
THREAT: Fishing nets -
saws get easily tangled.

SOLUTION:
Ban fishing nets in critical
habitats like river mouths.



THREAT: Habitat loss -
coastal development and
climate change.

SOLUTION:
Protect critical habitats
from industrial
development.



THREAT: Valuable parts -
fins most highly prized and
can sell for up to US\$4000.
Saws can be sold for
hundreds of dollars.

SOLUTION:
Improve fishery monitoring
& enforcement.

References:
• Dulvy et al. (2014) "Ghosts of the coast: Global extinction risk and conservation of sawfishes". Aquatic Conservation Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 26(1), 134-153.
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• Last & Stevens (2009) "Sharks and Rays of Australia (2nd Ed)". CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.

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