

# 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.

## AUSTRALIA'S SAWFISH



Narrow sawfish  
Endangered



Dwarf sawfish  
Endangered



Largetooth sawfish  
Critically endangered



Green sawfish  
Critically endangered

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

LARGETOOTH SAWFISH  
Critically endangered



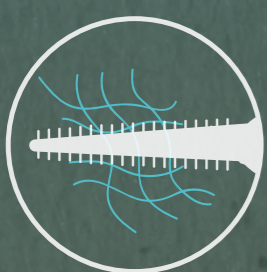
Sawfish may look scary but you may be surprised to see the bottom of its mouth is quite harmless and their main diet consists of fish, crustaceans & molluscs.

## AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION

■ CURRENT  
□ HISTORICAL



## 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.  
 • Simpfendorfer, C et al. (2017) "Shark futures: a report card for Australia's sharks and rays", Centre for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries and Aquaculture, James Cook University.  
 • Last & Stevens (2009) "Sharks and Rays of Australia (2nd Ed)", CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.

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