

*Use extreme caution when handling and releasing sawfish as the saw can thrash violently from side to side.*



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

### Report Sawfish Interactions:

Commercial and recreational anglers are encouraged to report sawfish encounters to:

Phone: 941-255-7403

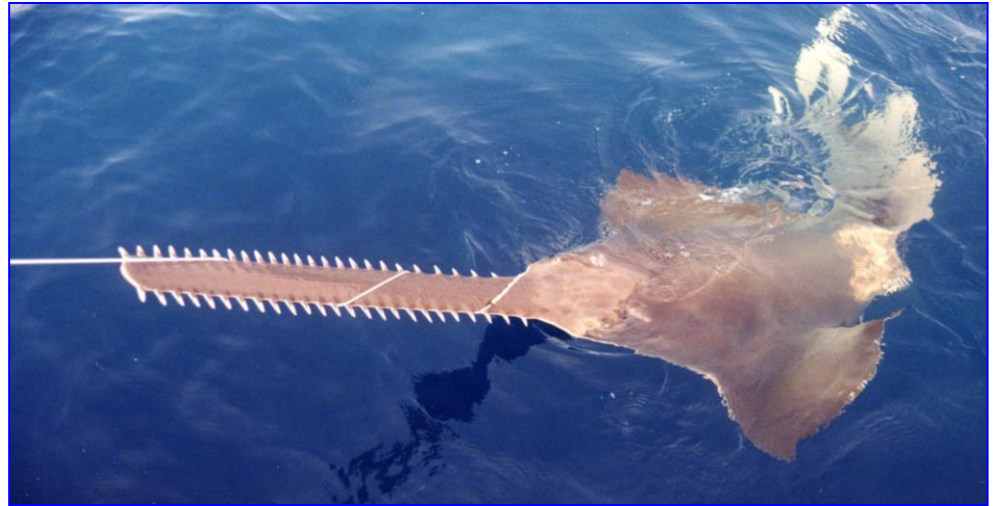
Email: [takereport.nmfs@noaa.gov](mailto:takereport.nmfs@noaa.gov)

If participating in the Supplementary Discard Data Program, remember to document the information below.

### We need the following information:

- Date and time of encounter
- Location (GPS coordinates)
- Habitat (water depth, bottom type)
- Estimated total length of sawfish including saw
- Any gear that could not safely be removed from the animal
- Record markings, scars, wounds, tags
- Details of capture (bait, hook size/type, mesh size, length of gear)
- DO NOT attempt to weigh the animal

# Sawfish Handling & Release Guidelines



**With a little extra effort the endangered sawfish can be safely returned to the water with little or no damage.**

### Make Every Effort to Remove Gear:

- If available, use line-cutting poles, bolt cutters, long-handled dehookers and boat hooks to aid in removing gear from the sawfish.
- If can be done safely, untangle any net or line from the animal's saw. Remove gear with a boat hook or line-cutting pole. Cut gear tangled around the saw by cutting along the length of the saw. Once gear is cut, work it free with a boat hook or line-cutting pole.
- If can be done safely, use a long-handled dehooker to remove hooks from the animals saw/mouth.
- If the hook cannot be removed, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- If hooked internally, DO NOT attempt to remove the hook cut the line as close the animal as possible.

### Things to Remember:

- **DO NOT REMOVE THE SAW.** It is illegal to injure a sawfish.
- Keep the sawfish in the water at all times.
- Released the sawfish as quickly as possible.

For more information about sawfish please visit: [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected\\_resources/sawfish/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/sawfish/index.html)