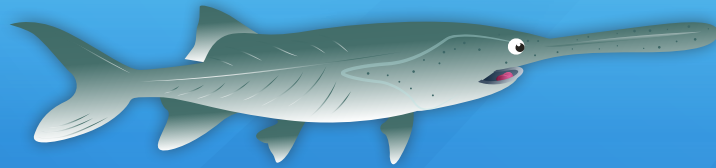


Sawfish Rostra: not to be sniffed at!

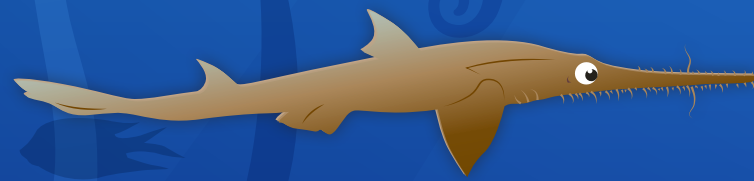
A **rostrum** refers to an animal's body part that is snout-like. Several fishes have rostra.



Paddlefish use their rostra to sense small **plankton**.



Swordfish use their rostra to stun and kill **prey**.



Sawsharks have rostra that look similar to sawfish.

 Sawfish eat **fishes** and **crustaceans**.



Different **species** of sawfish have different looking rostra. **Tooth count, spacing** and **shape** can vary depending on **species, location** and **sex**.



2007: trade in rostra is **banned** with the exception of one species for **conservation purposes**. **2013:** All trade becomes **illegal**.



All **5** Sawfish species are listed as **Endangered** or **Critically Endangered** by the **IUCN Red List**.

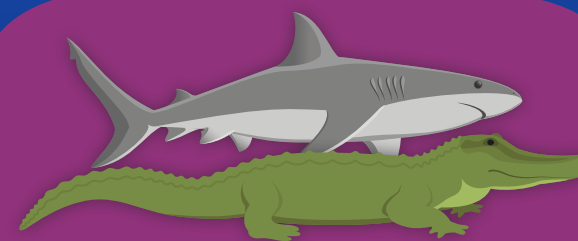
DID YOU KNOW?

The **teeth** on a sawfish rostrum **continue to grow**, but **don't grow back** if they are broken at the base.



A sawfish's **cartilaginous** skeleton allows it to **turn sharply** and **strike quickly** with amazing **power**, allowing them to catch food and **defend** themselves from **predators**.

Rostra can become **tangled** in **fishing nets** and **garbage**. Some fishers **cut off** the rostrum to get it out of the net or to keep as a **souvenir**. Sawfish have been shown to **die** without their rostrum.



Sawfish are **preyed** on by **crocodiles** and **sharks**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sawfish use their rostrum to **detect prey** using **electroreception** (detection of tiny electrical signals from fish). They also use their rostrum to **pin** and **move** fish towards their mouth.

See a Saw?

Scientists are **measuring** and taking **samples** from old sawfish rostra all over the world to better understand differences between historic and contemporary **populations**. The information is also helping to improve methods of **identifying** different sawfish species.

Can you help? Do you have a sawfish saw at home or have you seen one in a local museum? Help to **collect data** by **photographing** and **reporting** a rostrum.

Have you seen a saw? Visit sawfishconservationsociety.org and click on 'See a Saw' to enter your data!

