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* Sawfishes are members of the Family Pristidae, which belong to the larger group of sharks and rays known as elasmobranchs. They are found in warm temperate and tropical coastal waters around the world, and are easily identified by their long toothy saw (or rostrum).
* Sawfishes maturely slowly, some reaching a total length of over 7 meters, or 23 feet, and give birth to only a small number of pups at a time, making them vulnerable to overfishing.
* Sawfishes are one of the most endangered groups of fishes. Due mainly to overfishing and entanglement in nets and fishing gear, their numbers are declining rapidly and they have been extirpated (locally extinct) in many parts of their natural range.
* The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists all 5 species of sawfish as endangered on their Red List [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) The green sawfish (*Pristis* *zijsron*), the smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis* *pectinata*), and the largetooth sawfish (*Pristis* *pristis*) are listed as Critically Endangered and the narrow sawfish (*Anoxypristis* *cuspidata*), and the dwarf sawfish (*Pristis* *clavata*) are listed as Endangered.
* In the United States, all Sawfishes are protected under the Endangered Species Act and they are listed by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) on Appendix I which restricts their trade.
* There is still hope! In areas such as the State of Florida, where sawfishes have been protected for many years, their numbers are slowly increasing!
* You can help! Increase awareness in your local area about sawfishes and their need for protection, and increased enforcement of existing protections. Report any sawfish sightings, reduce pollution in your local waterways and support sustainable seafood buying practices and sustainable fisheries.