



SEE A SAW

The Shark Trust has joined the Sawfish Conservation Society's citizen science project **See a Saw** in a quest to discover sawfish rostra hidden in UK collections.

Locations may include:

- stately homes
- aquariums
- museums
- private collections
- auction houses

International trade of sawfish products is now prohibited under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), however most rostra held in British collections are likely historic artefacts or curios. With each rostrum, we aim to gather:

► **Photographs** – Using tooth count and spacing between teeth, we can ID the species it belonged to.

► **Associated social history** – What is your story? Was it passed down through the family? Where did it come from? This information could help us trace back the origins of the rostra and seek out locations where sawfish may have once lived.

► **DNA samples** – Enabling DNA analysis to be conducted by our partners.

Information collected will be available to sawfish researchers around the world and could improve conservation efforts.

SAW STORIES

This Narrow Sawfish rostrum has been fashioned into a sword and is owned by a collector of 19th century naval curiosities. The plaque reads:

**Taken by Capt. H. Keppel
HMS Maeander
Murdu 1849**

Murdu is in northern Borneo, although the name is no longer used. The HMS Maeander is documented to have visited this area during the time that Henry Keppel was Captain (from 1847 - 1851). Narrow Sawfish are still present in this region of the Indo-West Pacific.



WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

Funded by



In association with



CONTACT the Shark Trust

www.sharktrust.org



SEE A SAW

THE SEARCH FOR **SAWFISH**
STORIES FROM OUR PAST



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WHAT ARE SAWFISH?

Sawfish are large, shark-like rays with a distinct toothed 'rostrum' shaped like a saw. Depending on species, an adult sawfish can reach up to 7m in length, with the rostrum making up more than a quarter of its total body length.



Sawfish are the most threatened family of elasmobranch (sharks & rays).

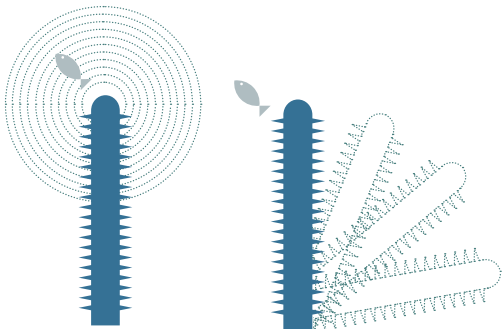
There are 5 species of sawfish - 3 are listed as Critically Endangered, 2 are Endangered.

Where do sawfish live?

Sawfish live in shallow coastal waters and estuaries in tropical and subtropical regions. However, during the past century populations of all five species have declined dramatically.

How is the rostrum used?

The rostrum of a sawfish is mainly used for feeding. They contain sensory organs which can detect electrical signals from potential prey, such as fish and crustaceans. They can even locate and target fish swimming in muddy water. Once detected, the sawfish will use its rostrum as a club to stun prey or pin it to the floor before eating it.



WHAT THREATS DO SAWFISH FACE?

FISHERIES



HABITAT LOSS



REGULATION



Their large, toothed rostra can easily get entangled in fishing gear (particularly nets) leading to incidental capture. Sawfish are often retained for their large fins, meat and rostra. As well as being highly prized for medicinal and cultural purposes, the rostra are sold as curios in the tourist trade. Habitat loss is a key threat as coastal areas around the world continue to be developed. Improved protection is needed for all species across their range, as well as strict enforcement of existing regulations.

FINS

Their large fins are highly prized in the shark fin trade.

SKIN

Sawfish skin has traditionally been processed into leather (e.g. for cowboy boots), however the popularity of shark leather has declined since the 1980s.

ROSTRUM

Sawfish rostra have long been a favourite marine curio, popular with tourists and explorers. Today, they're still prevalent on online auction sites and in antique shops.

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Sawfish parts including rostra (dried and powdered), livers, vertebrae, eggs and bile have all been used in traditional medicine.

MEAT

Throughout their range, sawfish meat has been used as a food source - historically this has been localised and opportunistic.

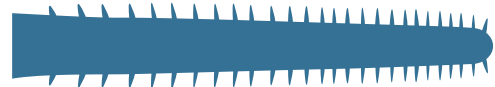


To find out more about sawfish conservation efforts, download **Sawfish: A Global Strategy for Conservation** from www.iucnssg.org



GREEN SAWFISH

Pristis zijsron

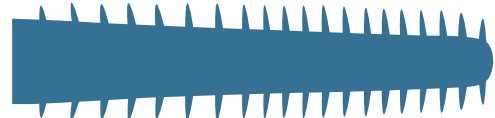


23-37 teeth per side



LARGETOOTH SAWFISH

Pristis pristis

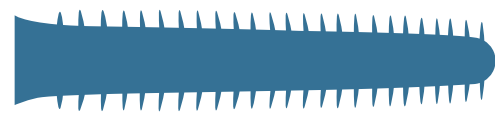


14-24 teeth per side



SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH

Pristis pectinata



20-32 teeth per side



NARROW SAWFISH

Anoxypristis cuspidata

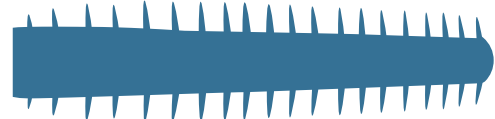


No teeth at base - 18-27 teeth per side



DWARF SAWFISH

Pristis clavata

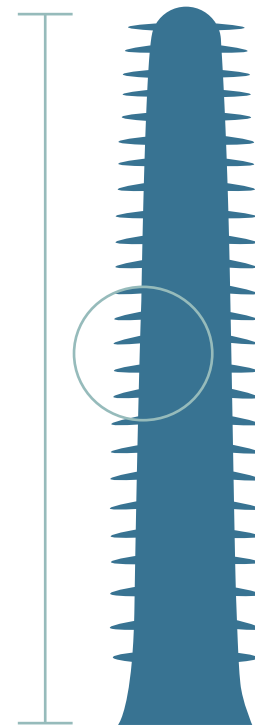


18-27 teeth per side



SEE A SAW

Measure your rostrum and
count the teeth on each side



Take a photo
of each side



Send us your
stories!

Send details of your rostrum to
sawfish@sharktrust.org

CITES

- ▶ The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species** (CITES) is an international agreement between governments which regulates trade of listed species. This includes live specimens live specimens, derivatives and parts, e.g. ivory, skins and rostra.
- ▶ All five species of sawfish are listed on CITES Appendix I - which prevents trade unless in exceptional circumstances.
- ▶ In the UK, an Article 10 Certificate is required by any establishment displaying a CITES listed artefact for commercial purposes - this includes using it to entice custom or selling the item. If the item is in a personal collection then no certificate is needed.