

NOTICE TO RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHERS



Sawfish are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, which makes it illegal to harm, harass, or handle them in any way. It is illegal to hook or net one, except with a permit or in a permitted fishery. Accidental captures do occur while fishing for other species; if a sawfish is hooked or netted it should be released immediately. Remove as much fishing gear as safely as possible. **DO NOT REMOVE THE SAW.**

Sawfish Safe Release Guidelines

If hooked:

- Keep sawfish in the water at all times.
- If it can be done safely, untangle the line if it is wrapped around the saw and remove as much of the line as possible.
- Cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Do not handle the animal or attempt to remove any hooks on the saw unless you have a long-handled de-hooker.

If tangled in a net:

- Make every effort to free the animal from the net with minimal additional stress or injury.
- Keep sawfish, especially the gills, in the water as much as possible.
- Try to remove all the netting and release the animal quickly.
- **DO NOT REMOVE THE SAW.**



WARNING: Sawfish are large powerful animals that can cause serious injury. For your safety, and the safety of the sawfish, use caution if you do hook or net one of these animals.

Reporting a Sawfish Encounter

The Florida Museum of Natural History and Mote Marine Laboratory have established a sawfish tracking database to assist in sawfish conservation efforts. If you do accidentally encounter a sawfish, you can greatly help conservation efforts by providing the following information:

- Your name, phone number, and email address
- Date, time, and location of the encounter
- Number, size, and behavior of the sawfish during encounter
- Your activity at time of encounter
- Information on any tags, scars, or distinguishing marks

Please report this information to any of the below contacts:

George H. Burgess
Florida Museum of Natural History
Email: sawfish@fmnh.ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 392-2360

Colin Simpfendorfer
Mote Marine Laboratory
Email: sawfish@mote.org
Phone: (941) 388-4441

Gregg Poulakis
FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Email: sawfish@myfwc.com
Phone: (941) 255-7403

