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

**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-handed 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.


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**Report Sawfish Interactions:**
Commercial and recreational anglers are encouraged to report sawfish encounters to:
Phone: 941-255-7403
Email: takereport.nmfsser@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