



Recreational Angler Sawfish Release Guidance

Remember & inform others that federal and state law prohibits targeting or injuring sawfish.

Hooked sawfish should be released immediately.

Follow these tips to reduce stress and injury to hooked sawfish:

- 1. Safety first! use good judgement & don't put yourself in danger**
- 2. Release the sawfish as fast as possible**
- 3. Keep the sawfish in the water**
 - Never lift it from the water
 - Never drag it to shore
- 4. Cut the line close to the hook**
- 5. Report your encounter**

1-941-255-7403

For more information visit: <http://sero.nmfs.gov/sawfish>



Photo: FWC

Photo: Bethea, NOAA

The Endangered Smalltooth Sawfish...

- once inhabited U.S. waters from Texas to North Carolina and are now only found in Florida (mostly Charlotte Harbor through the Florida Keys);
- numbers have declined by an estimated 95% or more over the last century; and
- currently face many threats, including:
 - incidental capture and hooking in fisheries, and
 - loss of nursery areas, such as red mangroves and shallow saltwater habitats, due to development.



Young sawfish use red mangroves and shallow saltwater habitats.