

GREEN SAWFISH *Pristis zijsron* (Bleeker, 1851)

Other names: Marine sawfish

Conservation status: IUCN Red List - Critically endangered; NSW – critically endangered; NT Fisheries - vulnerable

Description: Large slender bodied sawfish; skin rough; olive brown green dorsally and pale white ventrally; first dorsal fin in behind pelvic fin origin; no fork in caudal fin; rostrum teeth extend onto base of saw; rostrum does not taper distally like rostrums of freshwater and dwarf sawfishes.

Descriptors:

1. 24-28 pair of teeth; more closely spaced at tip and extend onto base of saw
2. no caudal fin fork
3. first dorsal fin origin well behind pelvic fin origin
4. rough skin

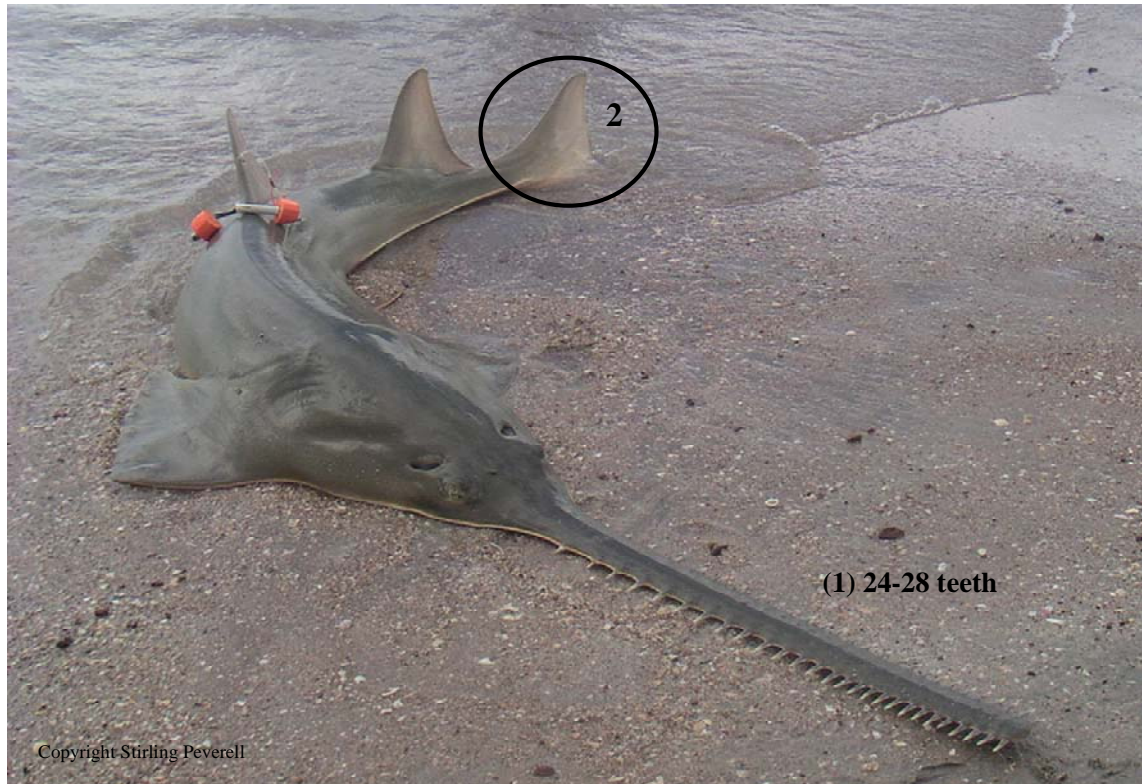
QLD Distribution: Reported in very low abundances to inhabit inshore and offshore waters of southern and central Queensland and in higher abundances in the northern region including the Gulf of Carpentaria. Green sawfish inhabit coastal foreshores and bays mostly in their juvenile life stages and marine waters to a depth greater than 40m as adults. Adults are known to seasonally frequent inshore waters and rivers during the monsoonal months to pup. Catches of green sawfish are very low and are highly variable. Juvenile green sawfish are vulnerable to capture by recreational line, cast and seine netting activities on coastal foreshores.

Size: maximum reported size 730cm

Diet: prawns and fish

Fisheries: Commercial trawl, gill net and long line fisheries. Recreational line fishery and bait collection using small mesh cast nets and seine nets. Indigenous net and harpoon fishing. Foreign illegal gill net and line fishing.

Utilisation: Meat and fins; rostrum trophy collectors; collection of live aquarium specimens.



Note: (1) rostral teeth spaced greater at base of rostrum, (2) straight caudal fin, rough skin