



Research to manage & recover NT threatened sawfishes & river sharks

Northern Australian sawfishes & river sharks

Species	EPBC	NT
Narrow Sawfish <i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>	Migratory	not listed
Dwarf Sawfish <i>Pristis clavata</i>	Vulnerable; Migratory	Vulnerable
Largetooth Sawfish <i>Pristis pristis</i>	Vulnerable; Migratory	Vulnerable
Green Sawfish <i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Vulnerable; Migratory	Vulnerable
Northern River Shark <i>Glyphis garricki</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Speartooth Shark <i>Glyphis glyphis</i>	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable



Northern Australian sawfishes & river sharks

- Data-poor
- Euryhaline (occur in fresh to saltwater)
- Juvenile nursery areas in rivers & floodplains
- Adults
 - Marine & coastal (sawfish)
 - Marine & riverine (Northern River Shark)
 - Unknown (Speartooth Sharks – no adults ever recorded in Australia)



Sawfishes

- Global declines; all 5 species threatened
- Northern Australia (4 species) the LAST stronghold
- Main threats:
 - Commercial fisheries bycatch (e.g. nets)
 - Illegal recreational fishing catches
 - Habitat alteration (barriers to upstream migration)



Sawfishes

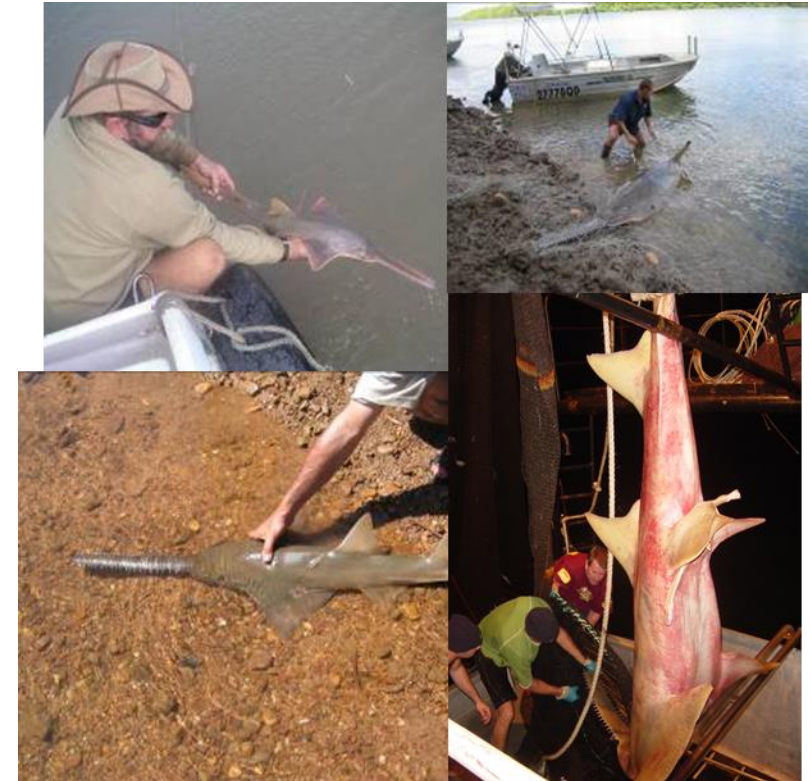
1960s – 1980s

- Historically abundant
- Large animals common



1990s – Present day

- Juveniles still captured infrequently
- Large animals very rare



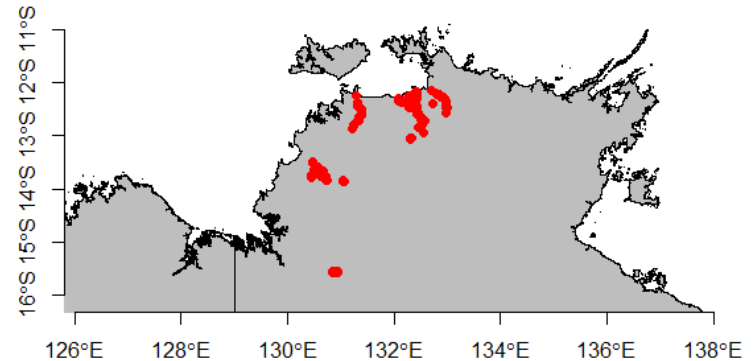
River sharks

- Restricted ranges, habitats, population sizes
- Northern Australia the ONLY stronghold
- Main threats:
 - Commercial fisheries bycatch (e.g. nets)
 - Illegal recreational fishing catches

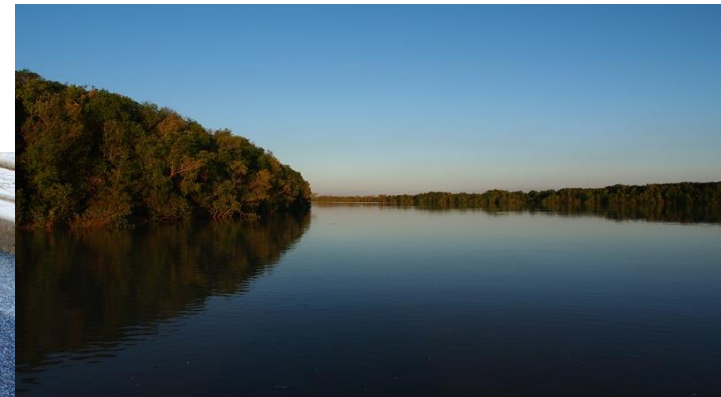


Current research

1. Surveys
 - Distribution
 - Habitat
2. Population structure (genetics)
3. Population size
4. Acoustic telemetry
 - Seasonal migrations
 - Habitat use
 - Connectivity between rivers
 - Connectivity between protected areas



- NT Survey locations (team currently surveying Victoria & Keep Rivers)



What's needed

- Knowledge of occurrence & distribution
- Catchment management
- Commercial fishing awareness
- Recreational fishing awareness

