

What's This? Sawfish

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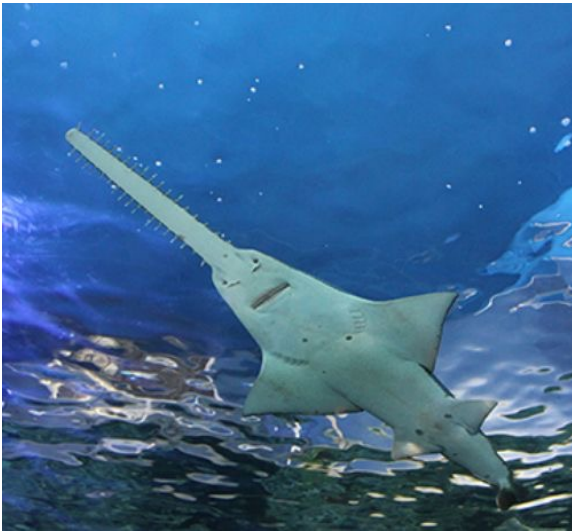


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This is the snout of a sawfish!

It's easy to see how this fish got its name: its long, flat, snout is rimmed with sharp points, like the end of a chain saw.

But this "blade" does more than cut - it also helps the **sawfish** track prey in murky waters. Its snout is covered with tiny sensors that detect electric fields produced by the fish's prey. As the sawfish swims, it waves its snout, scanning the water for shifts in electricity.

This ability, called electroreception, is found in a few other marine animals like electric eels and hammerhead sharks.



The body of a sawfish may look like a fish, but its long, flat snout sets it apart. Rimmed with razor-sharp points, this "saw" is a dangerous weapon for hunting prey and defending from predators. It can also be used to dig in sand looking for shellfish to eat. The sawfish's snout is covered with special sensory organs that detect electric signals produced by other animals. This ability, called electroreception, is like a "sixth sense" that helps the sawfish track prey, even in dark, muddy rivers and lagoons.