

Freshwater Sawfish

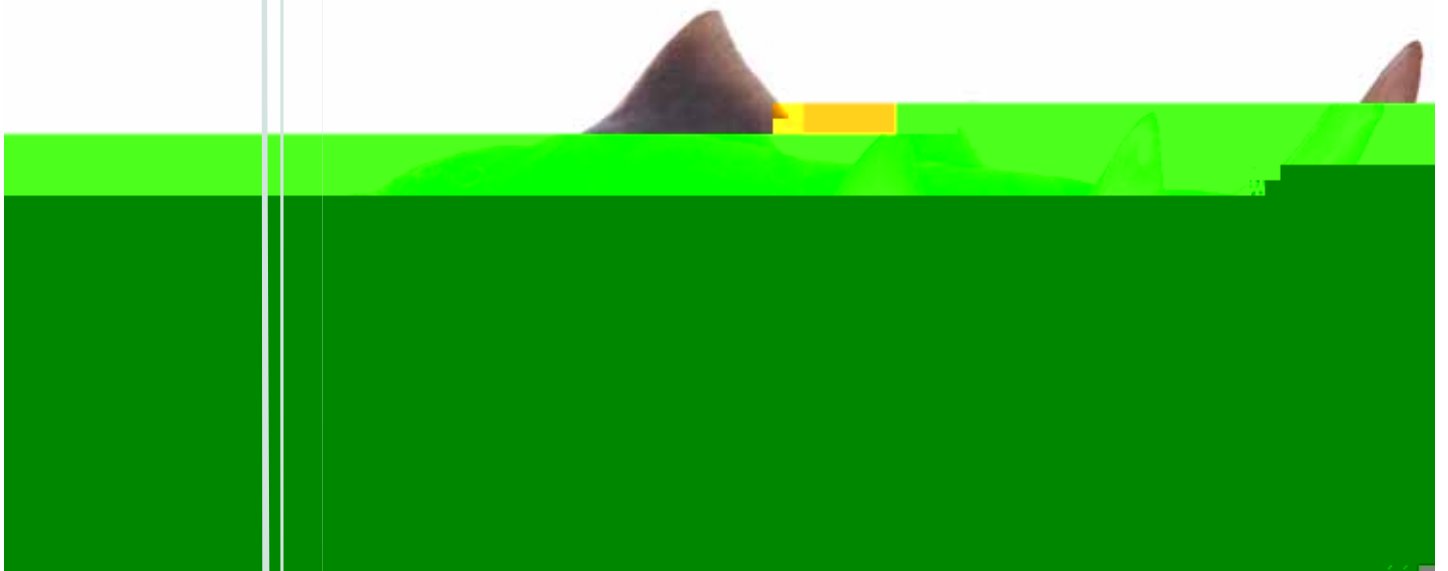
*Pristis microdon*¹

PROPOSAL

#45

Proposed action Transfer from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I

Lead proponent Australia



Overview

P. microdon is a Critically Endangered sawfish species that has been nearly extirpated in most of its former Indo-West Pacific range, due in part to international trade. CITES Appendix I listing is warranted based on the steep declines in numbers, contraction of historical range, and associated fragmentation of populations, exacerbated by the species' low productivity, tendency for lethal entanglement in fishing nets, and value in trade. Appendix I listing will align the CITES status of *P. microdon* with that of the rest of family Pristidae, thereby encouraging and facilitating stricter enforcement of conservation measures for all sawfish species, on a global scale.

1. Family Pristidae is being revised; the scientific name *P. microdon* is likely to change to *Pristis microdon*.



SHAR

Distribution

P. is thought to occur/have once occurred in the Indo-West Pacific from the Indian subcontinent throughout the coastal areas of Southeast Asia and Australia.



Call for action

Listing the freshwater sawfish under CITES Appendix I is:

- Warranted under the listing criteria;
- Essential to preventing unsustainable international trade;
- Complementary to national sawfish recovery efforts;
- Consistent with the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks.

This listing is needed to align the CITES status of freshwater sawfish with that of all other Pristidae species, thereby significantly reducing room for illegal trade, and facilitating enforcement of CITES requirements for all of the species in this Critically Endangered family.

Officially listing freshwater sawfish (Pristidae) under CITES Appendix I is essential to align the CITES status of freshwater sawfish with that of all other Pristidae species, thereby significantly reducing room for illegal trade, and facilitating enforcement of CITES requirements for all of the species in this Critically Endangered family.

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