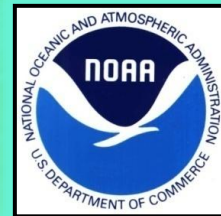


Sawfish Rescue Mission: Efforts to Capture and Transport a Distressed Smalltooth Sawfish for Rehabilitation during the 2024 Spinning event

Andrew Wooley, Lukas Heath, Dylan Yakich, Adam B. Brame, Katie Flowers, Kyle Knoblock, Clinton Wetzel, Jared Durrett, Tim Handsel, and Gregg Poulakis



MOTE
MARINE LABORATORY
& AQUARIUM

American Elasmobranch Society Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA
July 11, 2026

RIPLEY'S
AQUARIUMS
MYRTLE BEACH | TORONTO | GATLINBURG

Development

What's going on, how can we help, and how do we get permission?

- 30+ reports by 01 March
- No signs of slowing down
- “Is there something we can do?”
 - Management
 - Veterinary
 - Aquariums
 - Public
- Permitting
 - NOAA Fisheries
 - Emergency consultation
 - 22 March



Pre-production

Who, where, when, and how?

- **Who is involved?**

- FWC
- NOAA
- Mote Marine
- Ripley's
- Dynasty Marine

- **Where (logistics):**

- Capture
- Housing
- Transport
- Rehabilitation

- **How?**

- Lyle Squire
- 28' Parker
- Memory foam pad
- Water pumps
- Outdoor carpet



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Production

- 5 April 2024
- Lafitte Canal, Cudjoe Key
- “Swimming in circles”
- 11 ft STL
- Male



Production



Post-production

- 11 April 2024
- Ripley's transport to Sarasota
 - 350+ miles
- Huge team effort



Acknowledgements

Credits

- All activities performed under the authority and guidelines of NOAA Fisheries Emergency Section 7 Consultation #SERO-2024-00402 and ESA Section 10 Permit #25864 to Gregg Poulakis

