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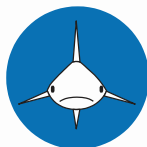
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Detection of juvenile Green Sawfish, *Pristis zijsro*, habitat in Western Australian waters

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There is very little ecological understanding of the early life-history of the critically endangered Green Sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*). Based on information that exists for other sawfishes and reports of juvenile sawfish from coastal rivers and tidal creeks in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, we hypothesised that such habitats represent an important nursery for *P. zijsron*. Indeed, our surveys confirmed that these habitats were used as a sawfish nursery, and resulted in the discovery of a pupping site for *P. zijsron* in the mouth of the Ashburton River. This represents the first time that a pupping location has been located for the species in Western Australia. A total of 39 juvenile *P. zijsron* were tracked using passive acoustic monitoring via an array of 12 VR2W receivers and three VR4-Global receivers. Two sub-adult Largetooth Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*) captured in the Ashburton River mouth were also acoustically tracked. We have developed a preliminary conceptual model of the way in which sawfishes utilise coastal aquatic ecosystems in this region through an analysis of movement, site fidelity, and depth partitioning among different size classes. The likely responses of sawfishes to increasing anthropogenic impacts in the Pilbara region are also discussed.

Keywords: Pilbara, telemetry, Ashburton River, mangrove creeks, estuaries

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