Man Kills an Endangered Sawfish and is Fined $50,000

Sawfish, a very intimidating fish, are apart of a long list of endangered fish under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration(NOAA). Sawfish are really absurd looking creatures and they have this distinctive rostrum -- a long, skinny extension from the head with teeth lining both sides. With the sawfish being endangered, there is only has 5 species left and all of them are listed as “endangered” in NOAA’s database. One such sawfish species is the smalltooth sawfish.

Last week a Florida man pleaded guilty to killing an endangered species, and that species being a smalltooth sawfish. According to prosecutors, the murderer, Chad Ponce, was seen on a boat off the shore of Ponte Vedra last year. On that occasion, Ponce was seen taking a power saw to the endangered sawfish and removing its rostrum. Coincidentally, he most likely was going to end up selling the rostrum of this sawfish online.

The sawfish rostrum is a very collectible item and are sometimes sold online. Some sawfish rostrums can go for a few thousand dollars online. The more expensive sawfish rostrums have few missing teeth, are incredibly long in size(some ranging 34 inches in length and 6 inches wide), and the species its from. These collectible dead fish parts make a “spectacular wall display,” says one site that used to sell these rostrums.

My thought is that Ponce was going to sell this fresh sawfish bill online for a pretty penny. If you consider it for a moment, being able to kill an animal in your area and immediately sell a single part of the animal for upwards of a few thousand dollars is a spectacular deal. Anybody with the right tools and knowledge would tackle this task with ease, but there’s a catch. The sawfish being “critically endangered” leaves room for a challenge. That challenge is not being caught by the police. Killing and selling this sawfish is highly illegal and is highly morally wrong.

That’s just what Chad Ponce of Florida did. He was seen removing the valuable part of the smalltooth sawfish. After removing the rostrum, Ponce definitely was going to throw the lifeless, sawless body of the smalltooth sawfish right back into the murky waters. Nobody would’ve noticed he thought, but someone indeed caught him red handed. He was caught and arrested. He just recently pleaded guilty to 1 year of prison and was fined $50,000 for killing the critically endangered sawfish. Mr. Ponce should feel ashamed of killing the endangered sawfish and deserves all of the punishment he has. He’s a horrible person.