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Putative extinction of two sawfish in Mexico and the United States

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All species of sawfish are listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as endangered or critically endangered. In fact, the smalltooth sawfish *Pristis pectinata*, and the largetooth sawfish *Pristis pristis*, have been declared to be regionally and locally extinct from the US Atlantic coast and the Gulf of California, Mexico, respectively, likely due to overfishing. However, here we dispute these claims by illustrating how lack of existence of a given species within a region can be misconstrued as evidence for extinction.

Palabras clave: reptilia, Elasmobranch, Batoi, Pristis, Local extinction

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