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Sawfish Network Newsletter March 2012: Invitation to submit to a Virtual Journal Issue on Sawfishes and how Sawfishes catch their prey

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Sawfish Network Newsletter

Edition 3
March 2012

Dear Lucy,

This is a brief but important edition of the Sawfish Network Newsletter. As always, please submit any new sawfish information [here](#) or suggest other contacts who might have information on sawfishes!

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Virtual Sawfish Issue in Aquatic Conservation - please submit your findings!

Since we began this project in mid-2011 we have received a number of emails from members of the Sawfish Network indicating that they had enough data for a paper but for one reason or another they had not yet got around to publishing it. With this in mind we realised that would be a perfect opportunity for a 'Virtual Journal Issue' on sawfishes.

What is a virtual journal issue? This is when a journal has agreed to host all papers on one topic in one place on their website. In our case this journal is in Aquatic Conservation and the topic is Sawfishes! Examples of this idea are shown [here](#) by the Journal of Applied Ecology. There is no deadline for submissions of papers to this virtual issue. Papers are submitted, processed and reviewed as normal and then as they are (hopefully) accepted and published they are also included in this virtual issue on their website.

Hopefully on the main contents page there will also be a banner with sawfish virtual edition and you would be able to click through to related sawfish papers in one place - even though they may have been published in different editions. These papers will always stay together online. If you have any questions about this or would like to discuss potential paper ideas please let email us: iucnshark@gmail.com.

How sawfishes capture their prey

We couldn't resist highlighting this great paper by Sawfish Network member and researcher at the University of Western Australia, Barbara Wueringer. Prior to this work, it was thought that sawfish rifle in the sand for prey with their rostrum. However, Barbara et al. found that sawfishes impale their prey by vigorously swiping the rostrum through the water column. Click [here](#) for one of the many media articles summarising the findings and a video clip of this activity and [here](#) for a link to the paper in Current Biology. Congratulations to Barbara for reaching such a wide audience with these very important findings.

Project Funding Update

We are pleased to announce that we have received further support from [Chester Zoo](#) through their Conservation and Research Funding program. It is very exciting to see the interest in this project gather speed and with less than 100 days until the workshop, it will be a very welcome addition to our funding situation!

Thank you again for your participation in this project.

Best wishes

The Sawfish Network Team

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