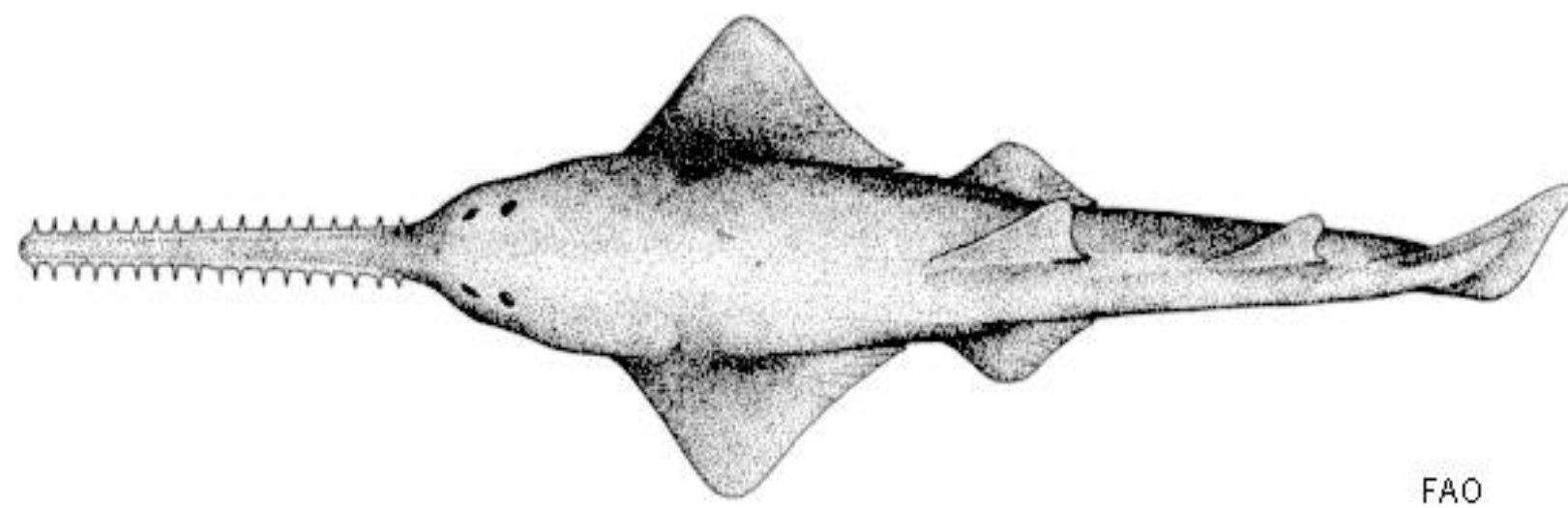


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Sawfish family (Pristidae) is recognized as one of the most imperil elasmobranch in the world. Six of the seven species are listed as “Critically Endangered” on the Red List from the IUCN and some populations considered as locally extinct. Due to their long rostrum, sawfishes are particularly vulnerable to fisheries and their high value is an incentive to black Market. Their coastal habitat are also sensitive to human exploitation, ecosystem degradation or pollution.

CONTEXT

Sawfishes have been subject to exploitation since the 30's in different part of the world (Fig.1 & 2) and their populations have dratically decreased. Their most important actual threat is by-catches and their post-uses.

Sawfishes parts are sold for different purposes (Warchol *et al.*, 2011) : rostrum for trophy and curiosity , tooth for cockfighting market, fins ; but they are also used as traditional medicine, clothing pins, religious symbols and tools fabric.



Fig 1. : Sawfish fishery in Guinea 1947 (© Association CapVers Anita Conti), rostrum used as advertising for sawfish trade in Sénégal 2011 (© A.Jung)

METHOD

- From February to November 2012, 3 major trade websites were scanned each week : E-bay, Le Bon coin, NaturaBuy plus web alert to research the more trade.
- The trade webpage was « screen captured » and information regarding species, length, width, teeth count (right, left), price (in EUR), type (auction, professional) geographic origin, year, condition of the acquisition and reason of the trade were collected.
- The sellers had been contacted by email or telephone when possible, some more details information were asked and information about the CITES was provided during the conversation. Sometimes, sellers were solicited in order to examine the rostrum and to make measurements and DNA sampling.

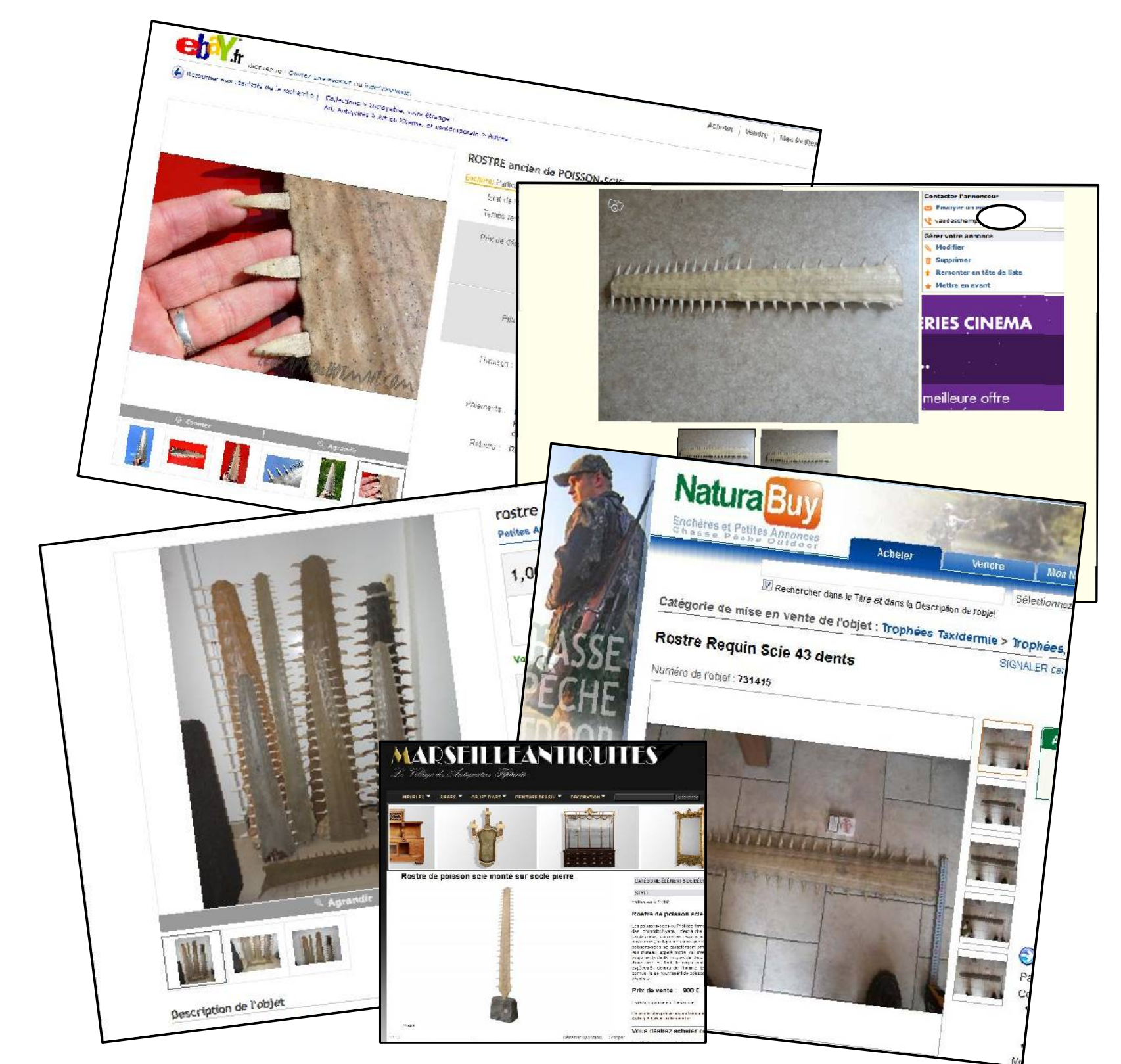


Fig 2. : Sawfish trade announcement examples

RESULTS

At least three different species composed the trade monitored in France : *P. pristis*, *P. pecinata* and *Anopristis cuspidata* (n=3), more than the half are not able to be identified (no picture or bad picture quality, differentiation impossible between the species), so that the most of the analysis was performed on species-group level : largetooth, smalltooth and knifetooth.

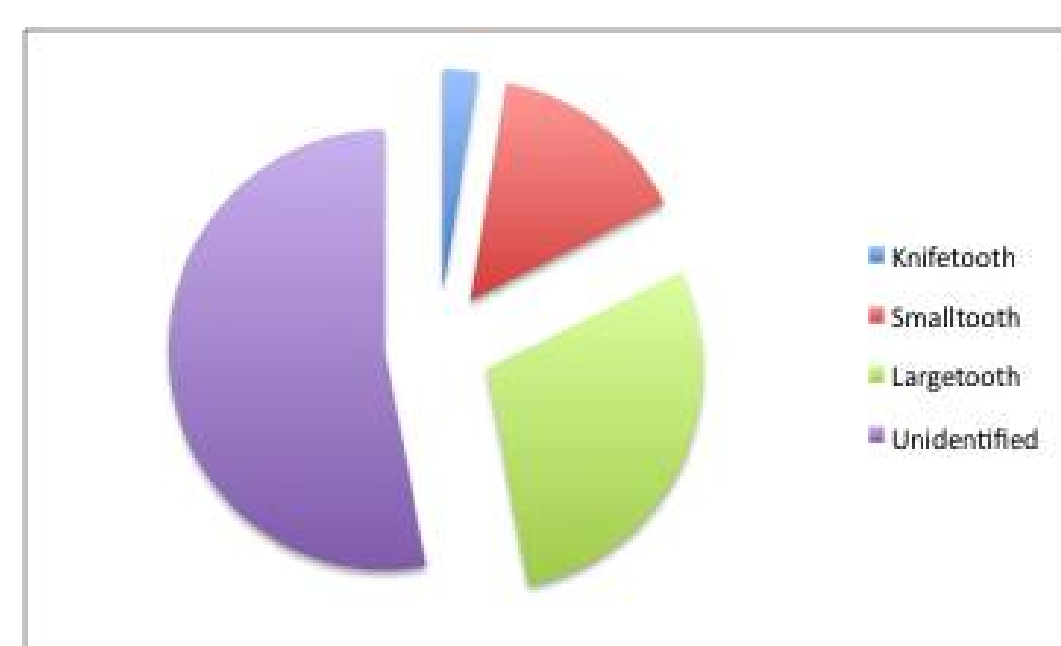


Fig. 3. : Species distribution of the sawfishes rostrum registered in French websites trade in 2012 (all included, n= 124).

Rostrum geographic origins are mostly unknown (80%), for the ones for which this information is provided, the rostra mainly come from Africa (69%) ; Indian Ocean and French Guyana composed respectively 27 % and 3.8% of the identified origin's trade.

Prices are influenced by the species (Fig.4) and the length (Fig.5). Largetooth sawfishes are the most valuable rostrum on the market. The biggest the rostrum, the highest are the prices registered for all mixed species.

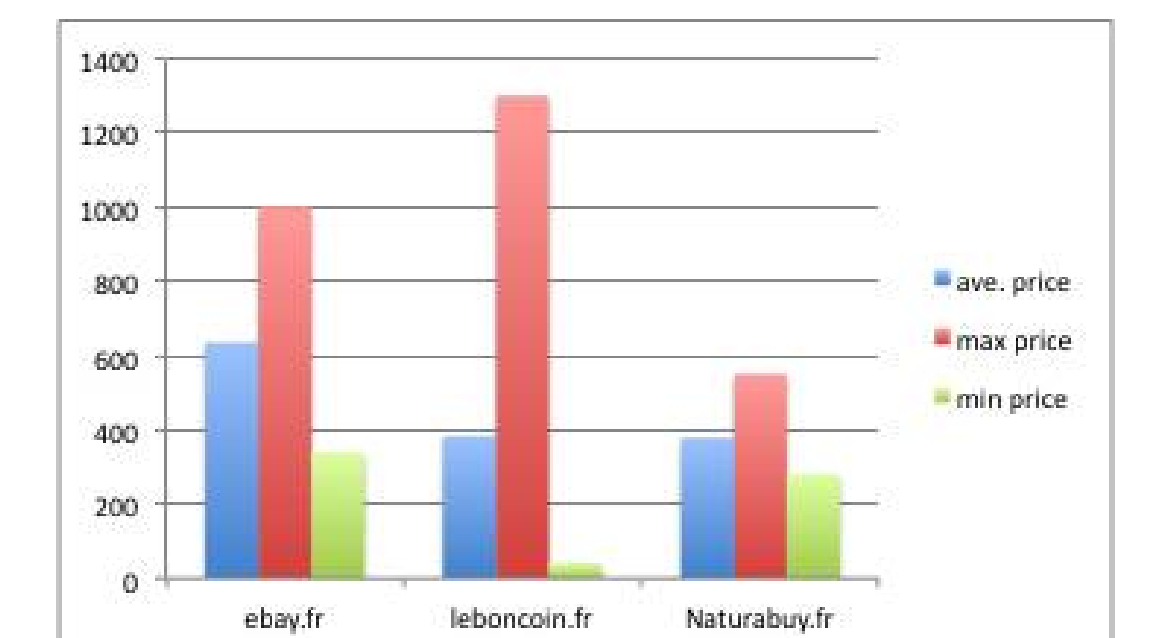


Fig. 6 : Average, minimum and maximum prices versus length for the sawfish rostrum trade monitor in 2012 on French websites (auction excluded).

A difference in average price was noted between websites (Fig. 6), this may be explained by the different of the sites' fame : Ebay is the oldest and the more professional french trade website, whereas LeBonCoin was longuer considered as a cheap second hand neighbour bric-a-brac. This particularity tends to change and is probably the cause of the high difference in prices noted in LeBoncoin.

The sellers declared to have the rostrum since decades in the family : on 26 rostrum (21% of the trade informed), 3 were purchased during the 19th century, 10 before 1950 and 13 after 1950 which 6 are after 70 and the most recent from 1988. In most of the case, it was brought back from leisure travels, merchant navy trips or during an expatriation period.

The major reasons for selling the rostrum are in priority :

- no interest to keep this kind of object
- possibility to gain money with an old-fashioned thing

When asked for the knowlege of the CITES listed for Pristidae and its consequences on trade, the most frequent answer is « My rostrum is old, and there are so many to be sold online that I tough it was allowed ».

A first complaint was sent to the environnemental police in charge of french CITES follow up (ONCFS) and led to an investigation; one seizure was also mandated by the custom toward a Spanish professional bric-a-brac trader.

Prices	Min (EUR)	Max (EUR)	Average (EUR)	Unknown %
Knifetooth	76	85	80,5	33
Smalltooth	150	1000	310	12
Largetooth	90	1300	454	23
Unidentified	40	900	23	5

Average number of rostrum trade/month	12
Average length (mm)	850
Average price (EUR)	401
Median price (EUR)	330
Estimated annual amount of the trade (EUR)	31 052

Fig. 4 : Trade composition, per sub-family (a) and overview (b)

95% of the trade are proposed by private persons, that sold one rostrum. Five professional were identified. Majority of the offers are fixed prices but some auction was registered for 31 rostrum and was analyse apart due to the low entrance price.

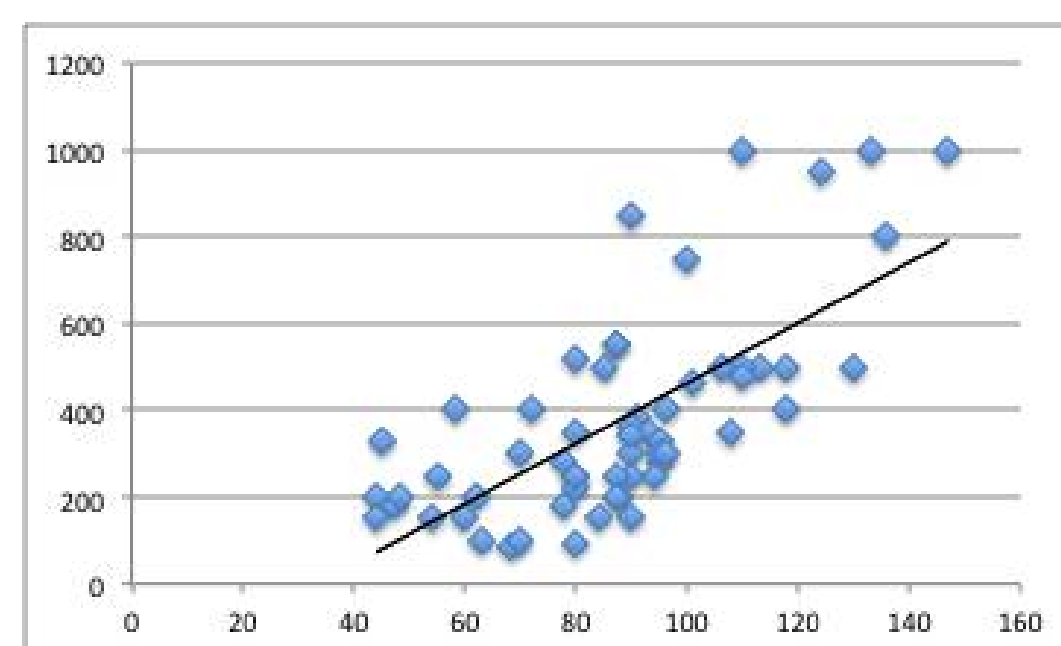


Fig. 5 : Prices versus length for the sawfish rostrum trade monitor in 2012 on commercial French websites (auction excluded).

CONCLUSION & PERSPECTIVES

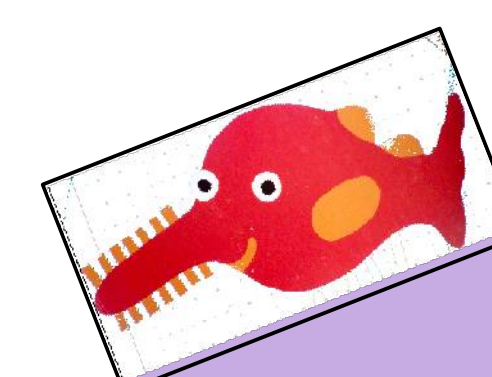
Despite the inscription of all pristidae under CITES in 2007, the level of blackmarket remains important and worried. In comparaisn with the previous studies in 2004, (before CITES) Mc Davitt & al. were monitoring 20 trades/month in USA , a 5 times bigger country than France.

Even if the rostra proposed for trade are supposed to be old, this first study demonstrates a very active market that could be able to support illegal fisheries and its associated financial godsend in the countries of origin.

To secure the future of sawfishes worldaround it appears urgent to call for :

- for the sensitization of trade websites' administrators in particular,
- the respect of the CITES regulation and the reinforcement of its control in general.

Regarding the originalty of the French market (national websites instead of Ebay), the same kind of particularity can exist in other countries DRDH proposed to extend this first monitor to European colleagues willing collect data in their onw country and to join the project as a network.



Join the European Trade Monitor !

To create an active network could help in conservation of sawfishes by bringing an overview of the market, a more accurate information on the species as well as a strongest scope to call for the sensitization of trade website administrator, the respect of the CITES and the request of protection's increase.

Pick-up a contact form under this poster or ask any information to the authors during the meeting and anytime by contacting : contact@desrequinsetdeshommes.org

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MC.DAVITT M. & CHARVET-ALMEIDA P., 2004. Quantifying trade in sawfish rostra : two examples. *Shark News*, 16 :7, pp 10-11
WARCHOL E. et al. 2011, Investigation on Internet-Based sale of Sawfish (Pristidae) rostra.