

## PRELIMINARY REPORT

### Protected species interactions reported to the Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

This is a preliminary report compiling protected species interactions for the period 1 April to 30 June 2023 from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders). The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) compiles and provides the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) these reports on behalf of Commonwealth fishers. The final report will be published on the AFMA website at [Protected Species Interaction Reports](#).

Consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AFMA and DCCEEW, protected species refers to all listed threatened, migratory, and marine species and cetaceans consistent with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). It is an offence for any person to undertake an activity in a Commonwealth area that results in the unintentional death, injury, trading, taking, keeping or moving of a species listed under the EPBC Act. However, the EPBC Act specifies certain actions are not offences, including actions undertaken in accordance with an accredited management plan or regime.

All Commonwealth-managed fisheries have been assessed and accredited under the EPBC Act on the basis that the management plan or regime includes all reasonable steps to ensure that members of protected species are not adversely affected by the fishing operation. If operators are fishing in accordance with the fishery management arrangements, it is not an offence to interact with a protected species. It is, however, an offence not to report these interactions.

Under the MoU between AFMA and DCCEEW, AFMA provides a quarterly summary of logbook reports on interactions with protected species in AFMA-managed fisheries to DCCEEW on behalf of fishers. New species may be added to EPBC Act lists and the tables below are updated accordingly. Logbook data is not routinely verified and therefore AFMA cannot attest to the accuracy of this data nor authenticate that this data is a complete record of all interactions occurring in these fisheries.

AFMA publishes protected species interaction reports on the [AFMA website](#) to allow interested stakeholders to have earlier access to this information. There may be minor differences between preliminary and final reports due to late submissions of logbooks to AFMA. The preliminary report of protected species interactions for AFMA-managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 2023** is below. The report has been provided to DCCEEW and is compiled from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concessions holders).

Protected species management fact sheets available on the [AFMA website](#) provide information on how protected species interactions are minimised including specific mitigation measures currently in place, thereby providing a useful context for the quarterly reports.

Should you require further information regarding these reports, please contact:

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Fisheries Services

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## PRELIMINARY REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 2023**

### Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Pelagic Longline	Albatrosses	4	1	3	Hooked
	Black Browed Albatross	1	0	1	Hooked
	Common dolphin	3	3	0	Hooked
	Green Turtle	5	5	0	Hooked
	Humpback whale	1	1	0	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	13	13	0	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	4	4	0	Hooked
	Longfin Mako	1	0	1	Hooked
	Long-finned pilot whale	2	2	0	Hooked
	Seals	1	1	0	Hooked
	Shearwaters	3	0	3	Hooked
	Short Tailed Shearwater	2	0	2	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	30	28	2	Hooked
	Short-finned pilot whale	1	1	0	Hooked
	Turtles	7	5	2	Hooked
Whales (mixed)	1	1	0	Hooked	
Total interactions		79	65	14	

### Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Pelagic Longline	Australian fur seal	1	1	0	Hooked
	Bottlenose dolphin	1	1	0	Hooked
	Flesh Footed Shearwater	1	1	0	Hooked
	Humpback whale	1	1	0	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	2	2	0	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	2	2	0	Hooked
Total interactions		8	8	0	

## Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery – Commonwealth Trawl Sector

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Bottom Otter Trawl	Albatrosses	3	0	3	Entangled
	Australian fur seal	3	1	2	Entangled
	Dolphins	3	0	3	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	12	2	10	Entangled
	Seals	30	12	18	Entangled
Danish Seine	Australian fur seal	2	0	2	Entangled
	Seals	3	2	1	Entangled
Midwater Trawl	Australian fur seal	1	1	0	Entangled
Total interactions		57	18	39	

## Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery – Gillnet, Hook & Trap Sector

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal Auto-longline	Australian fur seal	1	0	1	Hooked
	Birds	7	4	3	Hooked
	Shearwaters	1	0	1	Hooked
	Short Tailed Shearwater	1	1	0	Hooked
	White Chinned Petrel	1	1	0	Hooked
Demersal Gillnet	Australian fur seal	2	0	2	Entangled
	Birds	2	0	2	Entangled
	Common dolphin	4	0	4	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	1	0	1	Entangled
	Seals	3	0	3	Entangled
	Short Tailed Shearwater	3	1	2	Entangled
Demersal Longline	White Shark	1	0	1	Entangled
	Australian fur seal	1	0	1	Hooked
	Short Tailed Shearwater	2	0	2	Hooked
Total interactions		30	7	23	

## Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Seasnakes	281	13	268	Entangled
	Turtles	1	1	0	Entangled
	Total interactions	282	14	268	

## Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Dwarf Sawfish	20	13	7	0	0	Entangled
	Freshwater Sawfish	15	12	3	0	0	Entangled
	Green Sawfish	14	6	8	0	0	Entangled
	Green Turtle	6	6	0	0	0	Entangled
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1	0	0	0	Entangled
	Narrow Sawfish	356	210	138	4	4	Entangled
	Sawfishes	70	57	13	0	0	Entangled
	Seasnakes	3556	3003	491	47	15	Entangled
	Turtles	2	2	0	0	0	Entangled
	Total interactions	4040	3310	660	51	19	

## High Seas Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal Auto-longline	Albatrosses	1	0	1	Hooked
	White Chinned Petrel	1	0	1	Hooked
	Total interactions	2	0	2	

## Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Midwater Otter Trawl	Common dolphin	3	0	3	Entangled
	Dolphins	2	0	2	Entangled
	Seals	4	0	4	Entangled
	Total interactions	9	0	9	

## Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Bottom Otter Trawl	Grey Petrel	1	0	1	Hook/Entangled
	Porbeagle	1	0	1	Hook/Entangled
	Southern Elephant Seal	3	0	3	Hook/Entangled
	Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	1	0	Landed on deck & released
	Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	0	1	Vessel Collision
Total interactions		7	1	6	

## Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal Auto-longline	Black-browed Albatross	1	1	0	Collision
	White-chinned Petrel	1	0	1	Entangled
Total interactions		2	1	1	

**Active Fisheries – fisheries actively fishing but recording no interactions during the period**

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	No
Coral Sea Fishery	No
Great Australian Bight Fishery	Yes
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO – Pacific Ocean)	No
North-West Slope Trawl Fishery	No
Southern Bluefin Tuna	No

**Inactive Fisheries – fisheries that were not actively fishing during the reporting period**

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
High Seas Fishery (SIOFA area of competence – Indian Ocean)	No
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	No
Norfolk Island Fishery (inshore & offshore)	No
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	No
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No