

PRELIMINARY REPORT

Protected species interactions reported to the Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period 1 July to 30 September 2023.

This is the preliminary report compiling protected species interactions for the period 1 July to 30 September 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 July to 30 September 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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Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2023**

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Pelagic Longline	Albatrosses	4	1	3	Hooked
	Bottlenose dolphin	1	1	0	Hooked
	Green turtle	2	2	0	Hooked
	Leatherback turtle	9	9	0	Hooked
	Longfin mako shark	2	2	0	Hooked
	Long-finned pilot whale	4	4	0	Hooked
	Porbeagle	1	0	1	Hooked
	Seals	3	3	0	Hooked
	Shortfin mako shark	30	23	7	Hooked
	Toothed whales	1	0	1	Hooked
	Turtles	3	3	0	Hooked
Total interactions		60	48	12	

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
	Leatherback turtle	1	1	0	Hooked
Total interactions		2	2	0	

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery – GAB Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Bottom Otter Trawl	Australian fur seal	1	0	1	Entangled
Total Interactions		1	0	1	

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	4	0	4	Entangled
	Australian fur seal	8	1	7	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	8	1	7	Entangled
	Seals	42	10	32	Entangled
	White shark	1	1	0	Entangled
Danish Seine	Australian fur seal	2	0	2	Entangled
	Seals	4	0	4	Entangled
Midwater Trawl	Australian fur seal	4	1	3	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	9	3	6	Entangled
	Petrels and Shearwaters - unspecified	3	3	0	Entangled
	Porbeagle	3	2	1	Entangled
	Shortfin mako shark	6	6	0	Entangled
Total interactions		94	28	66	

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

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status			Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Unknown	
Demersal Auto-longline	New Zealand fur seal	1	1	0	0	Hooked
	Porbeagle	1	0	1	0	Hooked
Demersal Gillnet	Albatrosses	4	3	1	0	Entangled
	Australian fur seal	2	0	2	0	Entangled
	Australian sea lion	1	1	0	0	Entangled
	Common dolphin	12	0	11	1	Entangled
	Dolphins	3	0	3	0	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	1	0	1	0	Entangled
	Seals	6	0	6	0	Entangled
	Shortfin mako shark	2	0	2	0	Entangled
	White shark	1	1	0	0	Entangled
Demersal Longline	Shy albatross	1	0	1	0	Hooked
Total interactions		34	6	28	1	

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status			Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp (Prawn Trawl)	Seahorses & pipefishes	1	0	0	1	Entangled
	Seasnakes	365	0	0	365	Entangled
	Total interactions	366	0	0	366	

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Dwarf sawfish	3	2	1	0	0	Entangled
	Flatback turtle	14	14	0	0	0	Entangled
	Freshwater sawfish	17	11	5	1	0	Entangled
	Green sawfish	31	23	8	0	0	Entangled
	Green turtle	29	29	0	0	0	Entangled
	Hawksbill turtle	7	7	0	0	0	Entangled
	Loggerhead turtle	2	2	0	0	0	Entangled
	Narrow sawfish	213	122	88	3	0	Entangled
	Pacific (olive) Ridely turtle	1	1	0	0	0	Entangled
	Sawfishes	55	51	2	0	2	Entangled
	Seasnakes	5594	4626	929	26	13	Entangled
	Turtles	25	25	0	0	0	Entangled
	Total interactions	5991	4913	1033	30	15	

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Midwater Otter Trawl	Common dolphin	1	0	1	Entangled
	Total Interactions	1	0	1	

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal Auto-longline	Northern giant petrel	1	0	1	Hook/Entangled
	Prion	2	2	0	Landed on deck & released
	Southern elephant seal	4	0	4	Hook/Entangled
	Unidentified eared seal (Otariid)	1	1	0	Hook/Entangled
Total interactions		8	3	5	

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

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	No
Coral Sea Fishery	No
North West Slope Fishery	No
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawns)	No

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

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
High Seas Trawl Fishery	No
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO – Pacific Ocean)	No
High Seas Fishery (SIOFA – Indian Ocean)	No
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No
Norfolk Island Fishery (inshore & offshore)	No
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	No
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	No
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No
CCAMLR New & Exploratory Fisheries	No