

Protected Species Reporting for all Commonwealth Fisheries under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (1999)* fall into four main categories:

- a member of a listed threatened species or listed threatened ecological community,
- a member of a listed migratory species,
- a member of a listed marine species; or
- a cetacean.

Under the 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 Act. However, the Act specifies certain actions are not offences, including actions authorized by a permit or undertaken in accordance with an accredited management plan or regime.

All interactions with protected species, whether authorized or not, must be reported to the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) within seven days. This requirement to report all interactions includes fishers operating in Commonwealth fisheries managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

In 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed between the Managing Director of AFMA and the Secretary of DEH. This MOU allows AFMA to report interactions with protected species (listed under the EPBC Act) in Commonwealth managed fisheries to DEH on behalf of fishers. An interaction is considered any physical contact an individual (person), boat or gear has with a protected species including catching and colliding with any of these species.

The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period 1 April to 30 June 2006 is given below. This record is compiled from official logbook records that are submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders); all concession holders have agreed to AFMA supplying this data to DEH on their behalf.

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

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Protected species interaction report from AFMA logbooks for period 1 April to 30 June 2006

Fishery	Method	Species	Number of interactions	Life status	Interaction type#
Sub-Antarctic	Trap	Imperial Shag/Cormorant	1	Dead	Flew into boat
	Midwater	Fairy Prion	1	Dead	Flew into boat
	Longline	Cape Petrel	2	Alive - 2	Flew into boat Flew into tori line
	Demersal trawl	Leopard Seal	1	Dead	Entangled
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	Pilot whale	1	Alive	Unspecified
	Longline	Green turtle	1	Alive	Entangled
	Longline	Leatherback turtle	5	Alive - 4 Dead - 1	Entangled - 1 Unspecified - 4
	Longline	Loggerhead turtle	1	Alive	Unspecified
	Longline	Turtle	3	Alive - 1 Dead - 2	Unspecified
	Longline	Mutton bird	1	Dead	Unspecified
	Longline	Seabird	2	Alive - 1 Dead - 1	Unspecified
	Longline	Wandering Albatross	1	Dead	Caught in tori line
	Longline	Grey Nurse	1	Alive	Unspecified
	Western Tuna and	Longline	Leatherback turtle	1	Alive
Longline		Loggerhead turtle	1	Alive	Entangled
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Flatback turtle	2	Alive - 2	Unspecified
	Trawl	Green turtle	5	Alive - 5	Unspecified
	Trawl	Hawksbill turtle	2	Alive - 2	Unspecified
	Trawl	Loggerhead turtle	2	Alive - 1 Dead - 1	Unspecified
	Trawl	Pacific (Olive) Ridely turtle	1	Alive	Unspecified
	Trawl	Turtles	2	Alive - 2	Unspecified
	Trawl	Seahorses & pipefishes	4	Dead - 1 Unknown - 3	Unspecified
	Trawl	Seasnakes	1939	Alive - 1220 Dead - 226 Injured - 42 Unknown - 451	Unspecified
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Flatback turtle	1	Alive	Unspecified
	Trawl	Green turtle	1	Alive	Unspecified
	Trawl	Seahorses & pipefishes	1	Alive	Unspecified
	Trawl	Seasnakes	486	Alive - 295 Dead - 22 Injured - 3 Unknown - 166	Unspecified
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Trawl	Albatross	1	Dead	Collision
	Trawl	Grey nurse Shark	1	Alive	Entangled
	Trawl	Seals	16	Alive - 3 Dead - 12 Unknown - 1	entangled - 7 Unspecified - 9
	Trawl	Great White Shark	1	Dead	Unspecified
	Automatic Longline	Albatross	1	Dead	Unspecified
	Automatic Longline	Black browed Albatross	1	Dead	Hooked - 1

Small Pelagic Fishery	Trawl	Seals	1	Dead	Unspecified
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Unspecified interactions in fisheries assumed to be the following - hooked for longlines, entangled for trawling, netted for gillnets, trapped in traps.