

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 July to 30 September 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 July to 30 September 2006

Fishery	Method	Species	Number of interactions	Life status	Interaction type#
Sub-Antarctic	Trawl	Cape Petrel	1	Dead	Flew into boat
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	Albatross	7	Alive - 3 Dead - 4	Hooked
	Longline	Mutton bird	2	Dead - 2	Hooked
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	Leatherback turtle	1	Alive	Hooked
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Flatback turtle	8	Alive - 8	Entangled
	Trawl	Green turtle	4	Alive - 4	Entangled
	Trawl	Hawksbill turtle	4	Alive - 4	Entangled
	Trawl	Pacific (Olive) Ridely turtle	4	Alive - 4	Entangled
	Trawl	Turtles	6	Alive - 6	Entangled
	Trawl	Seahorses & pipefishes	31	Alive - 14 Dead - 4 Unknown - 13	Entangled
	Trawl	Seasnakes	4550	Alive - 2848 Dead - 541 Injured - 45 Unknown - 1116	Entangled
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Seahorses & pipefishes	2	Alive - 1 Unknown - 1	Entangled
	Trawl	Seasnakes	338	Alive - 154 Dead - 6 Injured - 1 Unknown - 177	Entangled
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Trawl	Black browed Albatross	3	Dead - 3	Entangled - 2 Collision - 1
	Trawl	Seals	68	Alive - 18 Dead - 50	Entangled
	Gillnet	Great white shark	2	Alive - 2	Netted

Interaction type assumed where not recorded based on fishery method (hooked for longlines, entangled for trawling, netted for gillnets)

* Interactions previously reported to DEH via automatic trigger reporting