

Protected Species Reporting for all Commonwealth Fisheries under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (amended January, 2007)

Under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (1999)* 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. Species listed under the Act 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.

All interactions with protected species, whether authorized or not, must be reported to the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) 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 DEW. This MOU allows AFMA to report interactions with protected species (listed under the EPBC Act) in Commonwealth managed fisheries to DEW 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 2007 is below. This record is compiled from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders); all concession holders have agreed to AFMA supplying this data to DEW on their behalf. 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 the mentioned fisheries.

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

Justine Johnston
Environment Policy Section
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Box 7051
Canberra Business Centre. Canberra. ACT 2610
Tel: (02) 6225 5555

Final Protected species interaction report from AFMA logbooks for period 1 April to 30 June 2007

Fishery	Method	Species	Number of interactions	Life status	Interaction type#	Comments
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	Green Turtle	3	Alive - 3	Hooked	
	Longline	Leatherback Turtle	4	Alive - 4	Hooked	
	Longline	Whale Shark	1	Alive -1	rubbing on boat	
	Longline	Black Brown Albatross	1	Dead - 1	Hooked	
	Longline	Pilot Whale*	1	Alive -1	Hooked	
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Freshwater Sawfish	1	Dead - 1	Entangled	Possible mis- identification
	Trawl	Sawfish (unspecified)**	190	Alive - 127 Dead - 48 Injured - 6 Unknown - 9	Entangled	Based on the proportion of (potentially) identified sawfish caught, no more than approximately 1% of individuals identified as 'sawfish' may possibly be a freshwater sawfish.
	Trawl	Green Turtle	5	Alive - 5	Entangled	
	Trawl	Turtles (unspecified)	25	Alive - 25	Entangled	
	Trawl	Seahorses & Pipefishes	21	Alive - 1 Unknown - 20	Entangled	
	Trawl	Seasnake	892	Alive - 344 Dead - 73 Unknown - 475	Entangled	
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Hawksbill Turtle	2	Alive - 2	Entangled	
	Trawl	Green Turtle	1	Alive - 1	Entangled	
	Trawl	Seahorses & Pipefishes	7	Alive -1 Unknown - 6	Entangled	
	Trawl	Seasnake	407	Alive - 168 Dead - 11 Injured - 4 Unknown - 224	Entangled	
Southern and Eastern	Trawl	Grey Nurse Shark*	1	Alive - 1	Entangled	

Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Trawl	Seals	12	Alive - 6 Dead - 4 Unknown - 2	Entangled	
	Gillnet	Dolphin*	2	Dead - 2	Netted	
	Longline	Shy Albatross	1	Dead - 1	Hooked	
	Gillnet	Seals	2	Dead - 2	Netted	
	Gillnet	Great White Shark*	1	Alive - 1	Netted	
Northwest Slope Fishery	Trawl	Seasnakes	2	Alive - 2	Entangled	
Sub-Antarctic Fishery	Trawl	Cape Petrel*	2	Dead - 2	Entangled	One of these was a small bird (not positively identified) observed to be caught near the seal excluder device while the net was being hauled aboard. It could not be found after the net was retrieved.

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

* Interactions previously reported to DEW via automatic trigger reporting

**All other species of sawfish from the Pristidae family are not listed under the EPBC Act. However, the entire Pristidae family is listed under CITES.