

PRELIMINARY REPORT

Protected species interactions reported to the Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period 1 January to 31 March 2023.

This is a preliminary report compiling protected species interactions for the period 1 January to 31 March 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 January to 31 March 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

Tel: (02) 6225 5555

Email: BycatchProgram@afma.gov.au

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Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period
1 January to 31 March 2023

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Pelagic Longline	Birds	1	0	1	Hooked
	Cuvier's beaked whale	1	1	0	Hooked
	Green Turtle	5	5	0	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	4	4	0	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1	0	Hooked
	Longfin Mako	1	1	0	Hooked
	Petrels and Shearwaters - unspecified	1	0	1	Hooked
	Porbeagle	1	1	0	Hooked
	Short Tailed Shearwater	3	0	3	Hooked
	Toothed whales	1	1	0	Hooked
	Turtles	2	2	0	Hooked
	Whales (mixed)	1	1	0	Hooked
ETBF scientific permit (pelagic longline)	Shearwaters	1	0	1	Hooked
Total Interactions		23	17	6	

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Pelagic Longline	Flesh Footed Shearwater	3	3	0	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	4	3	1	Hooked
	Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	1	0	Hooked
Total Interactions		8	7	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	2	1	1	Entangled
	Australian fur seal	1	0	1	Entangled
	Dolphins	1	0	1	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	3	1	2	Entangled
	Seals	17	8	9	Entangled
	Shy Albatross	1	1	0	Entangled
	White Shark	1	1	0	Entangled
	Total Interactions	26	12	14	

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

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status			Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Injured	
Demersal Auto-longline	Albatrosses	1	1	0	0	Hooked
	Australian fur seal	1	0	1	0	Hooked
	Birds	2	1	1	0	Hooked
	Killer Whale (Orca)	5	5	0	0	Hooked
	Longfin Mako	2	1	1	0	Hooked
	Short Tailed Shearwater	11	0	11	0	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	4	2	2	0	Hooked
	White Chinned Petrel	7	2	5	0	Hooked
	White Shark	1	1	0	0	Hooked
Demersal Gillnet	Australian fur seal	3	0	3	0	Entangled
	Birds	22	0	22	0	Entangled
	Bottlenose dolphin	1	0	1	0	Entangled
	Common dolphin	2	0	2	0	Entangled
	Cormorants	2	1	1	0	Entangled
	Dolphins	2	0	2	0	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	1	0	1	0	Entangled
	Seals	3	0	3	0	Entangled
	Shortfin Mako	2	0	2	0	Entangled
	Wandering Albatross	1	0	0	1	Entangled
	White Shark	6	4	2	0	Entangled
Demersal Longline	Australian Fur Seal	1	1	0	0	Hooked
	Total Interactions	80	19	60	1	

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Bottom Shrimp (Prawn Trawl)	Narrow Sawfish	4	4	0	Entangled
	Seasnakes	13	11	2	Entangled
	Total Interactions	17	15	2	

Northern Prawn Fishery - Pre-Season Scientific Monitoring Survey (Scientific Permit)

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Dubois Seasnake	1	1	0	Entangled
	Elegant Seasnake	18	15	3	Entangled
	Flatback Turtle	1	1	0	Entangled
	Horned Seasnake	2	2	0	Entangled
	Mosaic Seasnake	1	1	0	Entangled
	Narrow Sawfish	1	0	1	Entangled
	Olive Seasnake	1	1	0	Entangled
	Olive-headed Seasnake	4	4	0	Entangled
	Ornate Reef Seasnake	3	2	1	Entangled
	Scalloped Hammerhead	3	0	3	Entangled
	Spine-bellied Seasnake	73	68	5	Entangled
	Stokes Seasnake	5	5	0	Entangled
	Straightstick Pipefish	1	0	1	Entangled
	Winghead Shark	1	0	1	Entangled
	Yellow-bellied Seasnake	7	2	5	Entangled
Total Interactions		122	102	20	

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
HIMI scientific permits (Bottom Otter Trawl)	Porbeagle	1	1	0	Hook/Entangled
	White Chinned Petrel	1	1	0	Landed on deck & released
	Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	1	0	Landed on deck & released
Total Interactions		3	3	0	

CCAMLR Exploratory Fishery – East Antarctica

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal auto-longline	Southern Elephant Seal	1	1	0	Hook/Entangled
	Cape Petrel	1	0	1	Vessel collision
Total Interactions		2	1	1	

CCAMLR Exploratory Fishery – Ross Sea

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal auto-longline	Southern Elephant Seal	2	0	2	Hook/Entangled
Total Interactions		2	0	2	

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

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	No
Great Australian Bight Fishery	Yes
High Seas Fishery (SIOFA area of competence – Indian Ocean)	No
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO – Pacific Ocean)	No
North-West Slope Trawl Fishery	No
Small Pelagic Fishery	No
South Tasman Rise Fishery	No
Southern Bluefin Tuna	No
Torres Strait Fisheries – all methods (excluding prawn fishery)	No

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

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
Coral Sea Fishery	No
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	No
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No
Norfolk Island Fishery (inshore & offshore)	No
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	No
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No