

PRELIMINARY REPORT

Protected species interactions reported to the Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.

This is the final report compiling protected species interactions for the period 1 October to 31 December 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 final report of protected species interactions for AFMA-managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 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 October to 31 December 2023**

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Pelagic Longline	Albatrosses	11	4	6	1	0	Hooked
	Australian fur seal	1	1	0	0	0	Hooked
	Birds	3	0	2	0	1	Hooked
	Bottlenose dolphin	1	1	0	0	0	Hooked
	Common dolphin	1	1	0	0	0	Hooked
	Green turtle	2	1	1	0	0	Hooked
	Leatherback turtle	9	9	0	0	0	Hooked
	Loggerhead turtle	1	1	0	0	0	Hooked
	Pacific (olive) Ridely turtle	2	2	0	0	0	Hooked
	Shearwaters	12	1	11	0	0	Hooked
	Shortfin mako	27	26	1	0	0	Hooked
	Turtles	2	2	0	0	0	Hooked
Total interactions		72	49	21	1	1	

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Pelagic Longline	Leatherback turtle	4	3	1	Hooked
	Loggerhead turtle	2	2	0	Hooked
Total interactions		6	5	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	0	2	Entangled
	Birds	1	0	1	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	4	0	4	Entangled
	Seals	7	1	6	Entangled
Danish Seine	Australian fur seal	7	0	7	Entangled
	Seals	4	0	4	Entangled
Total interactions		25	1	24	

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

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal Auto-longline	Albatrosses	2	2	0	Hooked
	Birds	2	0	2	Hooked
	Flesh Footed Shearwater	5	0	5	Hooked
	Longfin Mako	2	1	1	Hooked
	Porbeagle	7	1	6	Hooked
	White Chinned Petrel	3	1	2	Hooked
Demersal Gillnet	Albatrosses	2	1	1	Entangled
	Australian fur seal	4	0	4	Entangled
	Birds	1	0	1	Entangled
	Common dolphin	1	0	1	Entangled
	Dolphins	1	0	1	Entangled
	Seals	4	0	4	Entangled
	Terns	1	1	0	Entangled
	White Shark	2	0	2	Entangled
Demersal Longline	Shy Albatross	2	0	2	Hooked
	White Shark	1	1	0	Hooked
Total Interactions		40	8	32	

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status			Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp (Prawn Trawl)	Seasnakes	110	41	1	68	Entangled
Total interactions		110	41	1	68	

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Dwarf sawfish	1	1	0	0	0	Entangled
	Flatback turtle	2	2	0	0	0	Entangled
	Freshwater sawfish	10	8	2	0	0	Entangled
	Green sawfish	8	7	1	0	0	Entangled
	Green turtle	8	8	0	0	0	Entangled
	Hawksbill turtle	3	2	0	0	1	Entangled
	Leatherback turtle	1	1	0	0	0	Entangled
	Loggerhead turtle	7	7	0	0	0	Entangled
	Narrow sawfish	93	63	28	1	1	Entangled
	Sawfishes	32	32	0	0	0	Entangled
	Seasnakes	3371	2829	519	12	11	Entangled
	Turtles	10	10	0	0	0	Entangled
Total interactions		3546	2970	550	13	13	

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Integrated Weight Line	Cape petrel	1	1	0	Entangled
	Seals and sea lions nei	1	1	0	Hooked/Entangled
	Southern elephant seal	1	0	1	Entangled
Total Interactions		3	2	1	

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

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	No
Coral Sea	No
Great Australian Bight	No
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No
North West Slope	No
Scallop	No
Small Pelagic	Yes
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No
Torres Strait Fisheries (except TPF)	No

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

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	No
High Seas Fishery (SIOFA area of competence – Indian Ocean)	No
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO – Pacific Ocean)	No
High Seas Non-trawl	No
High seas Trawl	No
Norfolk Island Fishery (inshore & offshore)	No
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	No
Southern Bluefin Tuna	No
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No

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