

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2018**

Under the *Environment 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 EPBC Act. However, the 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 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. As long as 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.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the Department of the Environment and Energy allows AFMA to report interactions with protected species in AFMA managed fisheries on behalf of fishers.

AFMA periodically provides summary reports on protected species interactions to the Department of the Environment and Energy. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2018** is below. This report is compiled from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders). 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.

Final reports are published on the AFMA website at: <http://www.afma.gov.au/managing-our-fisheries/environment-and-sustainability/protected-species/>

All vessels in the gillnet hook and trap (GHAT) sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) have had electronic monitoring systems since 1 July 2015.

Threatened, Endangered and Protected (TEP) species management fact sheets available on the AFMA website provide information on how TEP 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:

Bycatch and Discards Program
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Tel: (02) 6225 5555
Email: Bycatch@afma.gov.au

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Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	6	2	4			Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	3		3			Hooked	-
	Dolphins*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	13	10	3			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	8	7	1			Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	6	5	1			Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako	2		1		1	Hooked	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	3		2		1	Hooked	-
	Shearwaters	1	1				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	206		91		115	Hooked	-
	Silky Shark	14				14	Hooked	-
	Turtles	14	9	5			Hooked	-
	Total Interactions	278	36	111	0	131		

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Commonwealth Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom otter trawl	Albatrosses	8	3	5			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	17	2	15			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	1		1			Entangled	-
	New Zealand fur seal	11		11			Entangled	-
	Seals	10	3	7			Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian fur seal	3		3			Entangled	-
	Seals	2		2			Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	54	8	46	0	0		

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Dropline	Shortfin Mako	1		1			Hooked	-
Demersal Auto-longline	Australian Fur Seal	1	1				Hooked	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	3		3			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	8		3		5	Hooked	-
	Shy Albatross	1		1				
	White Chinned Petrel	2	1	1			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Demersal Longline	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	1		1			Hooked	-
	Sealions	1	1				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	1		1			Hooked	-
	White Shark*	1	1				Hooked	-
Gillnet	Australian fur seal	2		2			Entangled	-
	Bottlenose dolphin*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	7		7			Entangled	-
	Cormorants	3		3			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	4		4			Entangled	-
	Little Penguin	4		4			Entangled	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seals	7	1	6			Entangled	-
	Shearwaters	9	1	8			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako	28		24		4	Entangled	-
	White Shark*	10	7	3			Entangled	-
	Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	1				Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	98	15	74	0	9		

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Common dolphin*	3		3			Netted	-
	Seals	1		1			Netted	-
	Total interactions	4	0	4	0	0		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Cuvier's Beaked Whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Flesh Footed Shearwater	3		3			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	6	6				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Long-finned Pilot Whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	4				4	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	65				65	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	81	9	3	0	69		

¹ Interaction type assumed where not recorded based on fishery method (hooked for longlines, entangled for trawling, netted for gillnets)

² Interaction types reported in Southern Ocean fisheries are not assumed (as per footnote 1). As described above, AFMA does not assume "collision" in the case that interaction type information is not available. However, these assumed interaction types may include collisions.

* Interactions previously reported to the Department of the Environment and Energy via triggered reporting

** Listed as Migratory species under Part 13 of the EPBC Act on 29 January 2010.

*** Listed as Migratory species on 16 September 2015.

Fisheries recording no interactions

Fishery	Notes
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	No fishing occurring
Coral Sea Fishery	Some fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing occurring
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Some fishing occurring
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	Some fishing occurring
High Seas Fishery (SIOFA area of waters)	No fishing occurring
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO area of waters)	No fishing occurring
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Northern Prawn Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	Some fishing occurring
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring