

# FINAL REPORT

## Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 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 April to 30 June 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](mailto:Bycatch@afma.gov.au)

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## Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	23	4	19			Hooked	-
	Australian Gannet	4		4			Hooked	-
	Birds	3		3			Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	1	1				Hooked	-
	Dolphins*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	8	6	2			Hooked	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	28	27	1			Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	7	4	2		1	Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako	4		2		2	Hooked	-
	Long-finned Pilot Whale	1	1				Hooked	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	2				2	Hooked	-
	Seals	2	2				Hooked	-
	Shearwaters	6		6			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	692		228		464	Hooked	-
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	5	4	1			Hooked	-
	Silky Shark	33				33	Hooked	-
	Turtles	6	5	1			Hooked	-
	Whale Shark	1	1				Hooked	-
<b>Total Interactions</b>		<b>831</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>503</b>		

## Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Australian Fur Seal	5		5			Netted	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	16	2	14			Netted	-
	Shy Albatross	2	2				Netted	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

## Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Commonwealth Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom otter trawl	Albatrosses	7		7			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	32	7	24	1		Entangled	-
	Bottlenose dolphin*	1		1			Entangled	-
	New Zealand fur seal	2	2				Entangled	-
	Seals	13	4	9			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako	1		1			Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	1	1				Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian fur seal	6	1	5			Entangled	-
	<b>Total Interactions</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>		

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Dropline	Shortfin Mako	1		1			Hooked	-
Demersal Auto-longline	Grey Nurse Shark*	2				2	Hooked	-
	Seals	2	1	1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	3		2		1	Hooked	-
Demersal Longline	Shortfin Mako	5		5			Hooked	-
Gillnet	Albatrosses	1		1			Entangled	-
	Australian Fur Seal	4		4			Entangled	-
	Bottlenose dolphin*	2		2			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	10		10			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	12		12			Entangled	-
	Imperial Shag	1		1			Entangled	-
	Little Penguin	1	1				Entangled	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seals	9		8		1	Entangled	-
	Shearwaters	4	3	1			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako	37	2	25		10	Entangled	-
	Cormorants	5		5			Entangled	-
	White Shark*	3	2	1			Entangled	-
	<b>Total Interactions</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>		

## Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Albatrosses	1		1			Hooked	-
	False Killer Whale	1	1				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	3	3				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Long-finned Pilot Whale	1		1			Hooked	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	4	3	1			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	1				1	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	75		1		74	Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>		

## Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Otter Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish	1	1				Netted	-
	Freshwater Sawfish	2	2				Netted	-
	Green Sawfish	6	4	2			Netted	-
	Green Turtle	3	3				Netted	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Narrow Sawfish	80	64	15	1		Netted	-
	Sawfishes	126	82	44			Netted	-
	Seahorses & Pipefishes	79	68	11			Netted	-
	Seasnakes	2,989	2,488	460		41	Netted	-
	Turtles	10	9	1			Netted	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>3,297</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>		

## Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Otter Trawl	Seasnakes	85	58	2		25	Netted	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>		

## Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Wilson's Storm Petrel	1		1			Collision	Bird collided with interior wall of hauling room under low visibility conditions
	Grey Petrel	1		1			Hooked	-
	Southern Elephant Seal	3	1	2			Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

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

<sup>2</sup> 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	Some fishing occurring
Coral Sea Fishery	Some fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing occurring
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	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	Some fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No 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
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring