

# FINAL REPORT

## Protected species interactions reported to the Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2019**

**This is a final report that the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) has provided to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DoAWE) on behalf of Commonwealth fishers. This report compiles protected species interactions for the period 1 July - 30 September 2019 from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders). The final report will be published on the AFMA website at [Protected Species Interaction Reports](#).**

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFMA and DoAWE, 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 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.

Under the MOU between AFMA and DoAWE, AFMA provides a quarterly summary of logbook reports on interactions with protected species in AFMA managed fisheries to the DoAWE on behalf of fishers. 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 July - 30 September 2019** is below. The report has been provided to the DoAWE 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:

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Final Report: **1 July to 30 September 2019**

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Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2019**

## Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	5	2	3	-	-	Hooked
	Black Browed Albatross	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	Bottlenose dolphin	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	Dolphins	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	False killer whale	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
	Green Turtle	7	7	-	-	-	Hooked
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	7	7	-	-	-	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	2	1	1	-	-	Hooked
	Longfin Mako	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	New Zealand fur seal	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	Porbeagle	1	-	-	-	1	Hooked
	Shearwaters	3	1	2	-	-	Hooked
	Short Tailed Shearwater	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	612	4	197	-	411	Hooked
	Silky Shark	2	-	-	-	2	Hooked
	Turtles	4	3	-	-	1	Hooked
	<b>Total interactions</b>		<b>652</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>206</b>		<b>415</b>

## Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Pelagic longline	Flatback Turtle	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	Hawksbill Turtle	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
	Porbeagle	3	-	-	-	3	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	48	-	-	-	48	Hooked
Total interactions		58	7			51	

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom otter trawl	Albatrosses	11	2	9	-	-	Entangled
	Australian fur seal	33	4	29	-	-	Entangled
	Birds	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
	Buller's Albatross	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
	Dolphins	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
	Seals	8	3	5	-	-	Entangled
	Shy Albatross	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
Danish seine (trawl fishery)	Seals	7	2	5	-	-	Entangled
Midwater otter trawl	New Zealand fur seal	5	3	2	-	-	Entangled
	Seals	4	1	3	-	-	Entangled
	Shearwaters	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
	Shortfin Mako	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
Total Interactions		62	19	56			

## 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		
Set gillnet	Albatrosses	1	-	1	-	-	Netted	
	Australian fur seal	2	-	2	-	-	Netted	
	Birds	1	-	1	-	-	Netted	
	Bottlenose dolphin	2	-	2	-	-	Netted	
	Common dolphin	5	-	5	-	-	Netted	
	Dolphins	6	-	6	-	-	Netted	
	Little Penguin	1	-	1	-	-	Netted	
	New Zealand fur seal	12	-	12	-	-	Netted	
	Seals	5	-	5	-	-	Netted	
	Shortfin Mako	2	-	2	-	-	Netted	
Dropline	Porbeagle	2	-	2	-	-	Hooked	
	Shortfin Mako	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked	
Set auto-longline	Birds	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked	
	Longfin Mako	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked	
	Porbeagle	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked	
Set longline	Birds	2	-	2	-	-	Hooked	
<b>Total interactions</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43</b>				

## Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Midwater otter trawl	Birds	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
	Bottlenose dolphin	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
	Common dolphin	7	1	6	-	-	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
Total Interactions		10	2	8			

## Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom shrimp trawl (prawn trawl)	Dwarf Sawfish	3	3	-	-	-	Entangled
	Green Sawfish	3	2	-	1	-	Entangled
	Green Turtle	12	12	-	-	-	Entangled
	Narrow Sawfish	99	75	23	1	-	Entangled
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	3	3	-	-	-	Entangled
	Sawfishes	85	59	26	-	-	Entangled
	Seahorses & pipefishes	30	6	24	-	-	Entangled
	Seasnakes	3613	3005	608	-	-	Entangled
	Turtles	16	16	-	-	-	Entangled
Total Interactions		3864	3181	681	2		

## Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom shrimp trawl (prawn trawl)	Seasnakes	451	128	1	2	320	Entangled
	Total interactions	451	128	1	2	320	

## High Seas Trawl Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom otter trawl	Basking Shark	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
	Total interactions	1		1			

## Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type <sup>2</sup>
			Alive	Dead/Injured	
Demersal longline	Antarctic Sleeper Shark	3	1	2	Hooked
	Porbeagle Shark	9	3	6	Hooked
	Total interactions	12	4	8	

## Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type <sup>2</sup>
			Alive	Dead/Injured	
Demersal longline	Southern elephant seal	1	-	1	Hooked/Entangled
	Total interactions	1		1	

<sup>1</sup>Interaction type assumed where not recorded based on fishery method (hooked for longlines, entangled for trawling, netted for gillnets). AFMA does not assume “collision” in the case that interaction type information is not available, however these assumed interaction types may include collisions.

<sup>2</sup>Interaction types reported in the Southern Ocean are not assumed (as per footnote 1).

## Fisheries recording no interactions

Fishery	Notes
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Some fishing occurring
CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries	No fishing occurring
Coral Sea Fishery	Some fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	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)	Some fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	No fishing occurring
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No fishing occurring
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	Some fishing occurring
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No fishing occurring

## Attachment 1

### Live broodstock collection Permit

The collection of live Black tiger prawns (*Penaeus monodon*) from the Northern Prawn Fishery occurs under separate permits to provide the aquaculture industry with broodstock, in accordance with obligations under Offshore Constitutional Settlements with Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. While these permits have been utilised for some time, there have been very low reported interactions with protected species. As data from these trips is not required to be recorded exclusively on an official AFMA logbook it has not been stored in the AFMA catch data base. As a result, these interactions were not reported by AFMA in the past. However, after industry reported a substantial increase in saw fish interactions in the second half of 2018, AFMA is now including data from broodstock collection trips in its quarterly reports to DoAWE.

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Prawn Trawl	Unidentified Sawfishes	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
	Unidentified Seasnake	3	3	-	-	-	Entangled
	Narrow Sawfish	5	-	5	-	-	Entangled
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>			

## Attachment 2

### Scientific Permit

AFMA may, upon application being made in the approved form, grant a scientific permit in respect to a specified vessel. These permits are predominantly for applied research and generally relate to fish stock assessment, gear technology and mitigation of bycatch. Even while fishing under such a permit if fishing activity results in any interaction with a protected species or community the interaction must be reported to AFMA.

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Midwater Otter Trawl	Common Dolphin	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
	Total interactions	1		1			