

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported to the Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 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 complies protected species interactions for the period 1 October - 31 December 2019 from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders). The final report is published on the AFMA website at [Protected Species Interaction Reports](#).

Consistent with the 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 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. 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.

As required in 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 preliminary report of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 October - 31 December 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:

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Observer Program

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Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 2019**.

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Pelagic Longline	Albatrosses	19	1	18	-	-	Hooked
	Common Dolphin	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	Dolphins	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	Flatback Turtle	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	Green Turtle	7	6	1	-	-	Hooked
	Hawksbill Turtle	2	1	1	-	-	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	10	10	-	-	-	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	4	2	2	-	-	Hooked
	Longfin Mako	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
	Shearwaters	7	-	7	-	-	Hooked
	Short Tailed Shearwater	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	395	3	145	-	247	Hooked
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	2	1	-	-	1	Hooked
	Silky Shark	31	-	-	-	31	Hooked
	Turtles	4	3	1	-	-	Hooked
	Wandering Albatross	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
Total Interactions	489	30	180		279		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Pelagic Longline	Leatherback Turtle	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	Porbeagle	2	-	-	-	2	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	33	-	-	-	33	Hooked
Total Interactions	38	3			35		

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery – Commonwealth Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Otter Trawl	Albatrosses	14	1	13	-	-	Entangled
	Australian Fur Seal	23	3	20	-	-	Entangled
	Dolphins	3	-	3	-	-	Entangled
	Seals	7	1	6	-	-	Entangled
Danish Seine (Trawl Fishery)	Australian Fur Seal	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
	Seals	3	-	3	-	-	Entangled
Total Interactions		51	5	46			

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Set Gillnet	Albatrosses	3	2	1	-	-	Netted
	Australian Fur Seal	8	1	7	-	-	Netted
	Bottlenose Dolphin	1	-	1	-	-	Netted
	Common Dolphin	2	-	2	-	-	Netted
	Dolphins	5	-	5	-	-	Netted
	New Zealand Fur Seal	5	-	5	-	-	Netted
	Red Cormorant	2	-	2	-	-	Netted
	Seals	8	1	7	-	-	Netted
	Shearwaters	5	3	2	-	-	Netted
	Shortfin Mako	8	-	7	-	1	Netted
	Shy Albatross	2	1	1	-	-	Netted
	White Shark	4	4	-	-	-	Netted
	Dropline	Shortfin Mako	11	-	11	-	-
Set Auto-longline	Longfin Mako	4	2	2	-	-	Hooked
	Porbeagle	7	3	4	-	-	Hooked
	Shearwaters	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	5	-	5	-	-	Hooked
	White Chinned Petrel	2	-	2	-	-	Hooked
Set Longline	Albatrosses	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	2	-	2	-	-	Hooked
	Southern Royal Albatross	1	-	1	-	-	Hooked
	White Shark	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
Total Interactions		89	20	68		1	

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Midwater Otter Trawl	Common Dolphin	5	-	5	-	-	Entangled
	New Zealand Fur Seal	7	1	6	-	-	Entangled
Total Interactions		12	1	11			

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Flatback Turtle	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
	Freshwater Sawfish	1	1	-	1	-	Entangled
	Green Turtle	5	5	-	-	-	Entangled
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
	Narrow Sawfish	61	44	16	1	-	Entangled
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	3	3	-	-	-	Entangled
	Sawfishes	107	93	14	-	-	Entangled
	Seahorses & Pipefishes	45	8	37	-	-	Entangled
	Seasnakes	3698	2725	936	2	35	Entangled
	Turtles	26	24	2	-	-	Entangled
	Whale Shark	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
Total Interactions		3949	2905	1005	4	35	

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Narrow Sawfish	2	1	1	-	-	Entangled
	Seasnakes	113	44	-	1	68	Entangled
Total Interactions		115	45	1	1	68	

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead/Injured	
Demersal Longline	Antarctic Sleeper Shark	1	1	-	Hooked/Entangled
	Southern Elephant Seal	4	1	3	Hooked/Entangled
	Southern Giant Petrel	1	1	-	Hooked/Entangled
	White-chinned Petrel	3	-	3	Hooked/Entangled
Total Interactions		9	3	6	

Notes on interpretation:

¹Interaction 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.

²Interaction types reported in the Southern Ocean are not assumed. That is the way the individual interacts with the fishing gear is directly observed and not an assumption based on gear type as with other fisheries.

Fisheries recording no interactions

The following fisheries did not record any interactions with protected species. For some fisheries is are no interactions recorded as there is no fishing effort.

Fishery	Notes
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Some fishing occurring
CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries	Some fishing occurring
Coral Sea Fishery	No fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	Some 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
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl 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
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Some 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 ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Prawn Trawl	Unidentified Sawfishes	2	2	-	-	-	Entangled
	Unidentified Seasnake	7	7	-	-	-	Entangled
	Narrow Sawfish	8	6	2	-	-	Entangled
	Total Interactions	17	15	2			