

PRELIMINARY REPORT

Protected species interactions reported to the Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period 1 October to 31 December 2022.

This is a preliminary report compiling protected species interactions for the period 1 October to 31 December 2022 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 preliminary report of protected species interactions for AFMA-managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 2022** 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:

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Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period
1 October to 31 December 2022

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status			Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Injured	
Pelagic Longline	Albatrosses	17	2	14	1	Hooked
	Flesh Footed Shearwater	4	3	1	0	Hooked
	Green Turtle	1	1	0	0	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	5	5	0	0	Hooked
	Longfin Mako	2	1	1	0	Hooked
	Petrels and Shearwaters	4	0	4	0	Hooked
	Shearwaters	12	0	12	0	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	57	54	3	0	Hooked
	Toothed Whales	1	1	0	0	Hooked
	Turtles	7	5	2	0	Hooked
ETBF Scientific Permit (Pelagic Longline)	Shortfin Mako	3	3	0	0	Hooked
Total interactions		113	75	37	1	

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Pelagic Longline	Leatherback Turtle	1	1	0	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	2	2	0	Hooked
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	1	1	0	Hooked
Total interactions		4	4	0	

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	4	0	4	Entangled
	Australian Fur Seal	2	0	2	Entangled
	Dolphins	4	0	4	Entangled
	New Zealand Fur Seal	2	0	2	Entangled
	Seals	31	12	19	Entangled
	White Shark	1	1	0	Entangled
Danish Seine	Australian Fur Seal	2	0	2	Entangled
	Bottlenose dolphin	1	0	1	Entangled
	Seals	2	0	2	Entangled
Total interactions		49	13	36	

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

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal Auto-longline	Albatrosses	1	1	0	Hooked
	Longfin Mako	4	1	3	Hooked
	Porbeagle	2	0	2	Hooked
	Short Tailed Shearwater	5	0	5	Hooked
	White Chinned Petrel	7	0	7	Hooked
Demersal Gillnet	Australian Fur Seal	5	0	5	Entangled
	Common Dolphin	6	0	6	Entangled
	Cormorants	1	0	1	Entangled
	Imperial Shag	1	0	1	Entangled
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	0	1	Entangled
	Petrels and Shearwaters	3	3	0	Entangled
	Seals	2	0	2	Entangled
	Southern Right Whale	1	1	0	Entangled
	Terns	2	0	2	Entangled
	White Shark	2	1	1	Entangled
	Demersal Longline	White Shark	1	1	0
Dropline	Killer Whale	4	4	0	Hooked
Total interactions		48	12	36	

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp Quad Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Seasnakes	48	0	48	Entangled
	Total interactions	48	0	48	

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Flatback Turtle	6	6	0	0	0	Entangled
	Freshwater Sawfish	7	2	4	0	1	Entangled
	Green Sawfish	16	11	4	1	0	Entangled
	Green Turtle	15	15	0	0	0	Entangled
	Hawksbill Turtle	3	3	0	0	0	Entangled
	Narrow Sawfish	98	61	36	1	0	Entangled
	Sawfishes	33	33	0	0	0	Entangled
	Seasnakes	3240	2420	632	184	4	Entangled
	Turtles	12	10	1	1	0	Entangled
	Total interactions	3430	2561	677	187	5	

Live Broodstock Collection Permit (Black Tiger Prawns - NPF)

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Bottom Shrimp Trawl (Prawn Trawl)	Dwarf Sawfish	2	2	0	Entangled
	Freshwater Sawfish	1	1	0	Entangled
	Narrow Sawfish	5	4	1	Entangled
	Seasnakes	19	17	2	Entangled
	Total interactions	27	24	3	

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Midwater Otter Trawl	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1	0	Entangled
	Total interactions	1	1	0	

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear type	Common name	Total	Life status		Interaction type
			Alive	Dead	
Demersal Auto-longline	Southern Elephant Seal	3	0	3	Hook/Entangled
	White-chinned Petrel	2	2	0	Released by crew
	Total interactions	6	2	4	

PRELIMINARY

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

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	No
CCAMLR Exploratory	No
Coral Sea Fishery	No
Great Australian Bight Fishery	No
High Seas Fishery (SIOFA area of competence – Indian Ocean)	No
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO – Pacific Ocean)	No
North-West Slope Trawl Fishery	No
Southern Bluefin Tuna	No
Torres Strait Fisheries – all methods (excluding prawn fishery)	No

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

Fishery	Fishing under scientific permit
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	No
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No
Norfolk Island Fishery (inshore & offshore)	No
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	No
South Tasman Rise Fishery	No
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No