

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2019**

Under 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.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) 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 DoEE. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2019** is below. This report is compiled from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders). Due to this 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 [Protected Species Interaction Reports](#).

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. All midwater trawl vessels in the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) have had electronic monitoring systems since April 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:

Observer Program
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Tel: (02) 6225 5555
Email: Observers@afma.gov.au

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Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Pelagic longline	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Hooked
	Common dolphin	1		1			Hooked
	Dolphins	4	4				Hooked
	Dusky whaler shark	4				4	Hooked
	Green Turtle	15	8	7			Hooked
	Hawksbill Turtle	2	1	1			Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	13	13				Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	4	1	3			Hooked
	Longfin Mako	1				1	Hooked
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	4	3	1			Hooked
	Shearwaters	23		23			Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	258		86		172	Hooked
	Short-finned pilot whale	1	1				Hooked
	Silky Shark	11				11	Hooked
	Turtles	6	3	3			Hooked
	Wandering Albatross	1		1			Hooked
	White Shark	1				1	Hooked
Total interactions		347	34	127		186	

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Pelagic longline	Hawksbill Turtle	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	2	2	-	-	-	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1	-	-	-	Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	8	-	-	8	-	Hooked
Total interactions		13	5	0	0	8	

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	4	10	-	-	Entangled
	Australian fur seal	18	1	17	-	-	Entangled
	Black Browed Albatross	1	-	-	1	-	Entangled
	New Zealand fur seal	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
	Seals	4	-	4	-	-	Entangled
	Shortfin Mako	1	-	1	-	-	Entangled
	Shy Albatross	2	1	1	-	-	Entangled
	White Chinned Petrel	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
Danish seine (trawl fishery)	Australian fur seal	5	2	3	-	-	Entangled
	Seals	3	-	3	-	-	Entangled
Total interactions		50	10	39	1	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	Killer whales	2	2		-		Hooked		
	Shortfin Mako	6		6	-		Hooked		
Demersal gillnet	Albatrosses	1		1	-		Netted		
	Australian fur seal	3		3	-		Netted		
	Birds	2	1	1	-		Netted		
	Common dolphin	4		4	-		Netted		
	Cormorants	1		1	-		Netted		
	Dolphins	2		2	-		Netted		
	New Zealand fur seal	2		2	-		Netted		
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	1	1		-		Netted		
	Seals	5		5	-		Netted		
	Shearwaters (mixed old afma code))	1		1	-		Netted		
	Shortfin Mako	21	1	18	-	2	Netted		
	White Shark	5	2	3	-		Netted		
	Demersal longline	Australian fur seal	1	1		-		Hooked	
		Birds	1	1		-		Hooked	
Longfin Mako		11	5	6	-		Hooked		
Porbeagle		2		2	-		Hooked		
Shortfin Mako		12	1	11	-		Hooked		
Albatrosses		1	1		-		Hooked		
White Shark		1	1		-		Hooked		
Total interactions		85	17	66	0	2			

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Midwater otter trawl	Shortfin Mako	3	1	2	-	-	Entangled
	Total interactions	3	1	2			

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Bottom shrimp trawl (prawn trawl)	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1	-	-	-	Entangled
	Seasnakes	46	13	-	-	33	Entangled
	Total interactions	6	1	0	0	5	

¹ 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.

Fisheries recording no interactions

Fishery	Notes
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	No fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing occurring
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Some fishing occurring
High Seas Fishery (SIOFA area of waters)	Some fishing occurring
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO area of waters)	No fishing occurring
Heard Island and MacDonald Island Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing occurring
CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries	Some fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No 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
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Coral Sea 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 TEP 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 database. As a result, these interactions were not reported by AFMA in the past. However, after industry

reported a substantial increase in sawfish interactions in the second half of 2018, AFMA is now including data from broodstock collection trips in its quarterly reports to the Department of the Environment and Energy.

There are no TEP interactions during these trips to report in this quarter.

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