

# FINAL REPORT

## Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 2018**

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) 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 October to 31 December 2018** 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:

Bycatch and Discards Program  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
Tel: (02) 6225 5555  
Email: [Bycatch@afma.gov.au](mailto:Bycatch@afma.gov.au)

## FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 2018**

### Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	19	8	11			Hooked
	Wandering albatross	4	1	3			Hooked
	Dolphins*	1	1				Hooked
	Green Turtle	5	4	1			Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	7	6			1	Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	3	3				Hooked
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	2	2				Hooked
	Shearwaters	7		7			Hooked
	Short-tailed shearwater	1		1			Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	514		182		332	Hooked
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	1	1				Hooked
	Silky Shark	68				68	Hooked
	Turtles	1	1				Hooked
	<b>Total Interactions</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>401</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	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	54				54	Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>54</b>		

## Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Albatrosses	1	1				Contact with vessel	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1				Entangled	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	1	1				Entangled	
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</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	22	1	21			Entangled	-
	Grey-headed Albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	2	1	1			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	34	9	25			Entangled	-
	New Zealand fur seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seals	4		4			Entangled	-
	Dolphins	1		1			Entangled	-
	White Shark	5	5				Entangled	-
Danish seine	Albatross	1	1				Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	7	2	5			Entangled	-
	Seals	5	1	4			Entangled	-
	Dolphins	1		1			Entangled	-
	<b>Total Interactions</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>64</b>				

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown	
Demersal Longline	Shortfin Mako	13	4	6		3	Hooked
	Australian fur seal	1		1			Hooked
	Longfin Mako	5	3	2			Hooked
	Porbeagle	20	7	13			Hooked
	Shearwaters	45	18	27			Hooked
	White-chinned Petrel	5	2	3			Hooked
	White Shark	4	3	1			Hooked
	Albatrosses	2	2				Hooked
	Shy Albatross	1		1			Hooked
Gillnet	Birds	3		3			Netted
	Grey-Headed Albatross	1		1			Netted
	Australian Fur Seal	11		11			Netted
	Common dolphin*	5		5			Netted
	Bottlenose Dolphin	1		1			Netted
	Dolphins*	3		3			Netted
	Seals	9		9			Netted
	New Zealand fur seal	5		5			Netted
	Cormorants	1		1			Netted
	Red Cormorant	2		2			Netted
	Shortfin Mako	22		18		4	Netted
	White Shark	2	2				Netted
	Providence petrel	1		1			Netted

	Shearwaters	16		16			Netted
Dropline	Porbeagle	7		7			Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	11		11			Hooked
	<b>Total Interactions</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	

## Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Prawn Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish	1	1				Entangled	-
	Dolphins	1	1				Entangled	-
	Flatback turtle	4	4				Entangled	-
	Green Sawfish	7	7				Entangled	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Narrow Sawfish	17	16	1			Entangled	-
	Sawfishes	78	65	13			Entangled	-
	Seahorses & Pipefishes	32	14	17		1	Entangled	-
	Seasnakes	4203	3010	1000		193	Entangled	-
	Turtles	26	25	1			Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>4370</b>	<b>3144</b>	<b>1032</b>		<b>194</b>		

## Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Prawn Trawl	Seasnakes	332	147	5	1	179	Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>179</b>		

## Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>2</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Demersal longline	White-chin Petrel	1		1			Entangled	-
	Southern Elephant Seal	3		3			Hooked and entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

## Coral Sea Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Dropline	Shortfin Mako	1		1			Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</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). 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 Southern Ocean fisheries are not assumed (as per footnote 1).

\* Interactions previously reported to the DoEE 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
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
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
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 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 DoEE.

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Prawn Trawl – Live broodstock collection permits	Sawfishes	60	58	-	-	2	Netted	-
	Seasnakes	10	10	-	-	-	Netted	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>			<b>2</b>		