

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2018**

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* 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 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 the Department of the Environment and Energy. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2018** is below. This report is compiled from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders). 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 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.

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:

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Tel: (02) 6225 5555
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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	Albatrosses	8	1	7			Hooked
	Wandering albatross	2	1	1			Hooked
	Dolphins*	1		1			Hooked
	Green Turtle	10	7	3			Hooked
	Hawksbill Turtle	3	2	1			Hooked
	Leatherback Turtle	25	23	2			Hooked
	Loggerhead Turtle	2	2				Hooked
	Longfin Mako	3				3	Hooked
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	2	2				Hooked
	Porbeagle	1				1	Hooked
	Seals	3	3				Hooked
	Shearwaters	3	2	1			Hooked
	Sooty shearwater	1		1			Hooked
	Shortfin Mako	568	1	169		398	Hooked
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	1		1			Hooked
	Silky Shark	15				15	Hooked
	Turtles	1	1				Hooked
		Humpback whale	1	1			
	Total Interactions	650	46	187	0	417	

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Seals	2		2			Entangled	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	3	0	3	0	0		

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Commonwealth Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom otter trawl	Albatrosses	6	1	5			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	52	11	41			Entangled	-
	New Zealand fur seal	5	1	4			Entangled	-
	Seals	5	2	3			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian fur seal	7	4	3			Entangled	-
	New Zealand fur seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seals	10	9	1			Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	86	28	58	0	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		
Demersal Longline	Shortfin Mako	1		1			Hooked	-
Gillnet	Birds	1		1			Netted	-
	Australian Fur Seal	1		1			Netted	-
	Common dolphin*	4		4			Netted	-
	Dolphins*	7		7			Netted	-
	Little Penguin	5		5			Netted	-
	Seals	3	1	2			Netted	-
	Cormorants	1		1			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako	3		2		1	Netted	-
	White-faced storm petrels	1		1			Netted	-
Total Interactions		27	1	25	0	1		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic longline	Leatherback Turtle	3	3				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	6	6				Hooked	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	2	1	1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	64				64	Hooked	-
Total interactions		75	10	1	0	64		

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Prawn Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish	2	1	1			Entangled	-
	Flatback turtle	3	3				Entangled	-
	Green Sawfish	11	10		1		Entangled	-
	Green Turtle	4	4				Entangled	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Narrow Sawfish	92	59	32	1		Entangled	-
	Sawfishes	198	113	85			Entangled	-
	Seahorses & Pipefishes	59	36	23			Entangled	-
	Seasnakes	3856	3095	647		114	Entangled	-
	Turtles	25	23	2			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	4251	3345	790	2	114		

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Prawn Trawl	Seasnakes	306	171	4		131	Entangled	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Turtles	1				1	Entangled	-
	Total interactions	308	172	4	0	132		

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ²	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Demersal longline	Southern Elephant Seal	3		3			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	3	0	3	0	0		

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ²	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Demersal longline	Porbeagle	12	5	6	1		Hooked and entangled	-
	Total interactions	12	5	6	1	0		

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.

² Interaction types reported in Southern Ocean fisheries are not assumed (as per footnote 1).

* Interactions previously reported to the Department of the Environment and Energy 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
Coral Sea 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)	No fishing occurring
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO area of waters)	Some fishing occurring
CCAMLR Exploratory Fisheries	No 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 Department of the Environment and Energy.

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Prawn Trawl – Live broodstock collection permits	Sawfishes	238	187	31	-	20	Netted	-
	Seasnakes	16	16	-	-	-	Netted	-
	Total interactions	254	203	31	0	20		