

## FINAL REPORT

### Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2014**

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 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. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2014** 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

<http://www.afma.gov.au/sustainability-environment/protected-species-management/protected-species-interaction-reports/>

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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### Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Hooked	
	Longfin Mako**	2				2	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	493	3	387		103	Hooked	-
	Turtles	1	1				Hooked	
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>497</b>	5	387		105		

### Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Antarctic Fur Seal	1	1				Hooked	Hook came free releasing seal
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>1</b>	1					

## Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
	Northern Giant Petrel	3	2	1			Unknown	In extreme weather conditions the scientific observer went to the aid of two live birds and found one deceased (all Giant Petrels). The observer released the two live birds. The skipper noted that the deceased bird may have been flying "blind" due to the snow storm and collided with the vessel's superstructure.
	Rockhopper Penguin	1		1			Hooked	The penguin appeared to be accidentally hooked.
	Southern Elephant Seal	2		2			Entangled	
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>6</b>	2	4				

## Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery – Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1				Entangled	
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>1</b>	1					

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Autolongline	Shortfin Mako**	3		3				
Gillnet	Cormorants	3		3				
	Dolphins	7		7			Netted -	
	Great White Shark**	8	6	2			Netted -	
	Seals	7		6		1	Netted	
	Shortfin Mako**	21		21			Netted -	
	Australian Sea Lion	1		1			Netted -	
Longline	Great White shark	1	1				Hooked	
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1				Hooked	
	Shortfin Mako**	1		1			Hooked	
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>53</b>	8	44		1		

## 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 OtterTrawl	Albatrosses	1		1			Entangled -	
	Antarctic Fur Seal	2	1	1			Entangled	
	Australian Fur Seal	37	4	33			Entangled -	
	Seals	11	5	6			Entangled -	
	Cape Petrel	1	1				Entangled -	
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	1		1			Entangled	
	Shortfin Mako**	1		1				
	Shy Albatross	2	2				Entangled	
Danish Seine	Australian Fur Seal	5	5				Entangled -	
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>61</b>	18	43				

## Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Bottlenose Dolphin	1	1				Entangled	-
	Dwarf Sawfish	21	18	3			Entangled	-
	Flatback Turtle	4	4				Entangled	-
	Green Sawfish	19	13	6			Entangled	-
	Green Turtle	9	9				Entangled	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1					
	Narrow Sawfish	22	21	1			Entangled	
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	1	1				Entangled	
	Sawfishes	117	86	26	5		Entangled	
	Seahorses & pipefishes	15	2	13			Entangled	
	Seasnakes	3357	2835	478		44	Entangled	
	Turtles	21	21				Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>3588</b>	3012	527	5	44		

## Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Sawfish	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seasnakes	447	231	5	4	207	Entangled	-
	Turtles	4	4				Entangled	
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>452</b>	236	5	4	207		

## Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Leatherback Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	78		7		71	Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>80</b>	2	7		71		

<sup>1</sup> Interaction type assumed where not recorded based on fishery method (hooked for longlines, entangled for trawling, netted for gillnets)

\* Interactions previously reported to the Department of the Environment via triggered reporting

\*\* Listed as Migratory species under Part 13 of the EPBC Act on 29 January 2010

## **Fisheries recording no interactions**

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Some fishing activity
Coral Sea Fishery	Some fishing activity
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing activity
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	
Small Pelagic Fishery	One vessel active
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No fishing activity
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	Some fishing activity
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity