

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2015**

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 2015** 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/managing-our-fisheries/environment-and-sustainability/protected-species/>

This is the first final quarterly report to provide data from several Commonwealth fisheries which are now fully covered by electronic monitoring. Previously only some of the vessels in these fisheries were covered by electronic monitoring. Now all vessels have electronic monitoring systems 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).

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 ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Albatrosses	4		4			Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	3	3					
	Common Dolphin	4	3	1			Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	2	1	1			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	3	3				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	3		1		2	Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	3				3	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	732		279		453	Hooked	-
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	2	2				Hooked	-
	Turtles	1		1			Hooked	-
	Whales (mixed)	1	1				Hooked	-
	Total interactions	759	14	287	0	458		

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Southern Elephant Seal	2		2			Entangled	-
	Northern Giant Petrel	1		1			Hooked	-
	Giant Petrel	1	1				Hooked	-
Trawl	Cape Petrel	1		1			Netted	Found in net.
	Total interactions	5	1	4				

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		
Gillnet	Albatrosses	1		1			Netted	-
	Australian Fur Seal	1		1			Netted	-
	Bottlenose dolphins*	2		2			Netted	-
	Dolphins*	6		6			Netted	-
	Seals	2	1	1			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Netted	-
Demersal Longline	Great White Shark*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Total interactions	15	2	13	0	0		

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Albatrosses	1		1			Netted	-
	Total interactions	1	0	1	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 OtterTrawl	Albatrosses	3		3			Entangled	-
	Australian Fur Seal	25	3	22			Entangled	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	2	1	1			Entangled	-
	Seals (unclassified)	6	1	5			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	4		4			Entangled	-
Midwater otter trawl	Australian Fur Seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seals	5		5			Entangled	-
Danish Seine	Australian Fur Seal	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seals	3	1	2			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	50	7	43	0	0		

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish	3	1	2			Entangled	-
	Flatback Turtle	4	4				Entangled	-
	Green Sawfish	3	3				Entangled	-
	Green Turtle	2	2				Entangled	
	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Entangled	
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Entangled	
	Narrow Sawfish	5	3	2			Entangled	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	1	1				Entangled	
	Sawfishes (unclassified)	117	79	38			Entangled	-
	Seahorses and Pipefishes	90	31	59			Entangled	-
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	3046	2066	376	1	603	Entangled	-
	Tahiti Petrel	5	5				Entangled	
	Turtles	32	32				Entangled	-
	Total interactions	3310	2229	477	1	603		

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Green Turtle	1	1				Entangled	
	Narrow Sawfish	1		1			Entangled	
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	293	151	8	2	132	Entangled	-
	Turtles	2	2				Entangled	-
	Total interactions	297	154	9	2	132		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Albatrosses	2		2			Hooked	
	Leatherback Turtle	12	10	2			Hooked	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	1	1				Hooked	
	Porbeagle**	1				1	Hooked	
	Shortfin Mako**	196				196	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	212	11	4	0	197		

¹ 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

Fishery	Notes
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Fishing occurring
Coral Sea Fishery	Fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing activity
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery – Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Fishing occurring
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Fishing occurring
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No fishing activity
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	Fishing occurring
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity