

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 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 October to 31 December 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/managing-our-fisheries/environment-and-sustainability/protected-species/>

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	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Hooked	
	Green Turtle	3	2			1	Hooked	
	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				hooked	
	Longfin Mako**	2				2	Hooked	
	Shortfin Mako**	428		357		71	Hooked	
	Shy Albatross	1		1				
	Total interactions	436	3	359		74		

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		
Danish seine	Seals	1	1					
Bottom OtterTrawl	Albatrosses	8		8			Entangled	-
	Antarctic Fur Seal	2		2			Entangled	
	Australian Fur Seal	24	4	20			Entangled	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	2	1	1			Entangled	-
	Seals	5	4	1			Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	3		3			Entangled	
	Shearwaters	1	1					
	Total interactions	46	11	35				

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	Albatrosses	1	1				Hooked	
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	5		5			Hooked	
	Porbeagles	1		1			Hooked	
	Shortfin Makos**	6		6			Hooked	
Gillnet	Australian Fur Seal	1		1			Netted	-
	Dolphins*	9	2	7			Netted	-
	Great White Shark* **	7	7				Netted	
	Shortfin Mako**	4		4			Netted	-
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	3	1	2				
Longline	Great White shark* **	2	2				Hooked	
	Shortfin Mako	3		3			Hooked	
	Shy Albatross	1	1					
	Total interactions	43	14	29				

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish	3	2	1				
	Flatback Turtle	1	1				Entangled -	
	Green Sawfish	42	10	32			Entangled -	
	Green Turtle	5	5				Entangled -	
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1				Entangled -	
	Narrow Sawfish	1	1				Entangled	
	Sawfishes	87	60	23	4		Entangled	
	Seahorses & pipefishes	13	5	8			Entangled	
	Seasnakes	2895	2240	376	4	275	Entangled	
	Turtles	15	15				Entangled -	
	Total interactions	3063	2340	440	8	275		

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
	Seasnakes	246	152	1	1	92	Entangled -	
	Total interactions	246	152	1	1	92		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Porbeagle**	1				1	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	54		2		52	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	55		2		53		

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	Some fishing activity
Coral Sea Fishery	Some fishing activity
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing activity
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing activity
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
Heard Island and Macdonald Island Fishery	Some fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	No fishing activity
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