

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 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 April to 30 June 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/>

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	Birds	2		2			Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	2		2			Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1		1			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	1				1	Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	1				1	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	504		329		175	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	515	4	334		177		

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Northern Giant Petrel	1		1			Hooked	The bird appeared to be caught with a hook to the wing when setting and to have drowned. The bird was dead when hauled aboard.
	Southern Elephant Seal	1		1			Entangled	
	Southern Giant Petrel	1	1				Hooked	Released and observed to fly away uninjured.
	Total interactions	3	1	2				

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Shearwaters	1		1			Entangled	
	Total interactions	1		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	Longfin Mako**	57		57			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	4		4			Hooked	-
	Shy Albatross	1	1				Hooked	-
Gillnet	Albatrosses	1	1				Netted	-
	Dolphins*	3		3			Netted	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1		1			Netted	-
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	4	1	3			Netted	-
	Seals	3	1	2			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	27		27			Netted	-
	Great White Shark*	6	4	2			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	3		3			Hooked	-
Longline	Great White Shark*	1	1				Hooked	-
Dropline	Shortfin Mako**	1		1			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	112	9	103				

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Shy Albatross	2		2			Entangled	-
	Common Dolphins*	9		9			Entangled	-
	Seals	12		12			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	3		3			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	26		26				

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	1		1			Entangled	-
	Antarctic Fur Seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Australian Fur Seal	22	2	20			Entangled	-
	Basking Shark	1		1			Entangled	-
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seals (unclassified)	8	5	3			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	6		6			Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	2		2			Entangled	-
Danish Seine	Seals	2	2				Entangled	-
	Total interactions	44	9	35				

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Birds	2	2				Entangled	-
	Dwarf Sawfish	14	8	6			Entangled	-
	Green Sawfish	2	1	1			Entangled	-
	Narrow Sawfish	7	4	3			Entangled	-
	Sawfishes (unclassified)	75	51	24			Entangled	-
	Seahorses and Pipefishes	6		6			Entangled	-
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	1235	725	147	2	361	Entangled	-
	Turtles	3	3				Entangled	-
	Total interactions	1344	794	187	2	361		

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Seasnakes (unclassified)	201	150	9		42	Entangled	-
	Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Total interactions	202	151	9		42		

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	-
	Shortfin Mako**	77				77	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	80	3			77		

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	No fishing activity
Coral Sea Fishery	No fishing activity
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	Fishing occurring
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Fishing occurring
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Some fishing activity
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	Fishing occurring
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity