

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 2016**

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 April to 30 June 2016** 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/>

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:

Sara Murphy
Senior Environment Officer
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Tel: (02) 6225 5555
Email: Sara.murphy@afma.gov.au

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 2016**

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	1		1			Hooked	-
	Australian fur seal	1	1				Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	12	11	1			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	6	6				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	4	2	2			Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako	2		1		1	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	437		148		289	Hooked	-
	Short-finned pilot whale	3	3				Hooked	-
	Turtles	7	5	2			Hooked	-
	Silky shark	29				29		
	Wandering Albatross	1	1				Hooked	-
	Whales (mixed)	1	1				Hooked	-
Total Interactions	505	30	156		319			

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	10	9	1			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	19	1	18			Entangled	-
	Buller's Albatross	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seals	7	1	6			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Seals	1		1			Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	38	12	26				

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Otter Trawl	Australian fur seal	12		12			Netted	-
	New Zealand fur seal	4		4			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako	4	2	2			Netted	-
	Total interactions	20	2	18				

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		
Autolongline	Shy Albatross	1	1				Hooked	
Gillnet	Albatrosses	1	1				Netted	
	Australian fur seal	2		2			Netted	
	Australian sea lion	1	1				Netted	
	Birds	1		1			Netted	
	Common dolphin	4	1	3			Netted	
	Dolphins	4		4			Netted	
	Seals	2	1	1			Netted	
	Shearwaters	1	1				Netted	
	Shortfin Mako	31	2	29			Netted	
	White Shark	2	1	1			Netted	
Demersal longline	Wilson's Storm Petrel	1		1			Netted	
	New Zealand fur seal	1		1			Hooked	
	White Shark	1	1				Hooked	
	Total interactions	53	10	43				

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
	Seasnakes	225	116			109	Netted	-
	Total interactions	225	116			109		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
	Green Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	63				63	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	67	4			63		

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total					Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Porbeagles**	5	2	3			Hooked	-
	Grand Total	5	2	3				

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total					Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Crabeater seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Grey-headed albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
	Southern elephant seal	3		3			Entangled	-
	White-chinned petrel	1		1			Entangled	-
Trawl	White-chinned petrel	1		1			Netted	-
	Grand Total	7		7				

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Flatback Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Green Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Narrow Sawfish	6		6			Netted	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Sawfishes	65	41	24			Netted	-
	Seahorses & pipefishes	12	6	6			Netted	-
	Seasnakes	1141	929	211		1	Netted	-
	Turtles	3	3				Netted	-
	Total interactions	1230	982	247		1		

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 and Energy via triggered reporting

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

***Silky sharks were listed as Migratory species on 16 September 2015 and are included in this report. However there were no reported interactions.

Fisheries recording no interactions

Fishery	Notes
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	No fishing activity
Coral Sea Fishery	Some fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing activity
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Some 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	No fishing activity