

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2013**

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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC) 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 SEWPAC. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2013** 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	Green Turtle	1		1			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Hooked	Turtles were successfully released using dehooker.
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	3		1		2	Hooked	-
	Porbeagle Shark**	1		1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	425		350		75	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	432	2	353		77		

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Entangled	Seabird became entangled in the mesh behind the head of the trawl while hauling the gear onboard after a gear failure.
	Total interactions	1		1				

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		
Gillnet	Australian fur seal	1		1			Netted	-
	Dolphins*	3		3			Netted	-
	New Zealand fur seal	1		1			Netted	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	2		2			Netted	Birds likely to have been caught whilst setting net
	Shortfin Mako**	37		37			Netted	-
	White Shark*	1	1				Netted	-
Longline	New Zealand fur seal	1		1			Hooked	Adult seal hooked in flipper
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	10	2	8			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	9		9			Hooked	-
	Shy Albatross	1		1			Hooked	Bird was foul hooked in the leg
	White Shark*	3		3			Hooked	-
Mechanised Handline	Shortfin Mako**	5		5			Hooked	-
Dropline	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	76	3	73				

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		
Trawl	Albatrosses	5		5			Collision warp wires/vessel	One albatross collided with wheelhouse
	Australian fur seal	12		12			Entangled	-
	New Zealand fur seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	1			1		Collision with boat	Bird flew into boat and was injured, lost an eye but flew away ok
	Seahorses & pipefishes	81		81			Entangled	-
	Seals (unclassified)	62	8	54			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	1		1			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Seals (unclassified)	1	1				Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	166	9	156	1			

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	-
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	177	116	12		49	Entangled	-
	Total interactions	178	117	12		49		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	1				1	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	114		1		113	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	116	1	1		114		

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

* Interactions previously reported to SEWPAC 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	
Coral Sea Fishery	No fishing activity
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	One vessel was active during January and February
Northern Prawn Fishery	One vessel was active during January – targeting Scampi
Small Pelagic Fishery	
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity

