

## FINAL REPORT

### Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 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 the Environment (DoE) 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 DoE. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 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 <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Dolphins (unclassified)*	1	1				Entangled	Tail entangled in branchline, cut free, released alive and vigorous
	Green Turtle	4	2	2			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	2	2				Hooked	Turtles were successfully released using dehooker.
	Longfin Mako**	4				4	Hooked	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1				Hooked	Hooked in the side of the mouth. Released with approved line cutter.
	Porbeagle Shark**	9		8		1	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	569		434		135	Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>590</b>	6	444		140		

### Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Southern Elephant Seal	2		2			Entangled	Both seals were entangled in the mainline
Trawl	Porbeagle Shark**	2		2			Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>4</b>		4				

## Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish	2	1	1			Entangled	-
	Freshwater Sawfish	5	5				Entangled	-
	Green Sawfish	34	32	1	1		Entangled	-
	Narrow Sawfish	49	25	16	8		Entangled	-
	Sawfishes (unclassified)	87	70	11	6		Entangled	-
	Seahorses and Pipefishes	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	2300	1904	233	38	125	Entangled	-
	Flatback Turtle	2	1	1			Entangled	-
	Green Turtle	2	2				Entangled	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	6	5	1			Entangled	-
	Turtles (unclassified)	1	1				Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>2490</b>	2047	265	53	125		

## 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	Dolphins (unclassified)*	2		2			Netted	-
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	1	1				Netted	Shearwater flew into net during haul was tangled and released alive and flew away
	Sealions	1		1			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	31		31			Netted	-
Longline	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Hooked	-
	Shy Albatross	1	1				Hooked	-

	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>38</b>	2	36		
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### Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Commonwealth Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Otter Trawl	Albatrosses	3	2	1			Collision warp wires	-
	Australian fur seal	66	44	22			Entangled	40 seals were feeding on bait fish and caught in net. Skipper untied cod end strings to release seals alive.
	Pacific Gull	1		1			Collision warp wires	-
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	8		8			Collision warp wires	-
	Seals (unclassified)	21	7	14			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	12		12			Collision warp wires	Ten of these interactions occurred during an AFMA controlled experiment looking at the effectiveness of different mitigation methods <sup>2</sup>
Great White Shark*	1	1				Entangled	Released alive and vigorous	
Midwater Otter Trawl	Albatrosses	1		1			Collision warp wires	-
	Australian fur seal	6	6				Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>121</b>	60	61				

<sup>2</sup>Ten of the seabird interactions recorded in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector logbooks were part of the seabird verification project investigating the effectiveness of physical mitigation methods. All ten interactions were observed as part of the “control” component of the experiment which has now concluded.

## Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Mechanical Squid Jigs	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	1	1				Entangled	During line jigging a shearwater became entangled with the line, released unharmed
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>1</b>	1					

## Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Green Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	311	138	4		169	Entangled	-
	Turtles (unclassified)	2	2				Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>314</b>	141	4		169		

## Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Hooked	Line cutter used, hooked in front left flipper. Released alive and vigorous.
	Shortfin Mako**	119		17		102	Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>120</b>	1	17		102		

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

\* Interactions previously reported to DoE 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	
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity
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	One vessel was active during June