



FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 2012**

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 October to 31 December 2012** 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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Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 2012**

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Green Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	2	2				Hooked	Turtles were successfully released using dehooker.
	Longfin Mako**	1		1			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle shark**	1		1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	581		474		107	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	586	3	476		107		

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Giant Petrel (unclassified)	1		1			Hooked	Petrel was hooked in the beak during setting operations.
	Southern Giant Petrel	2	1	1			Collision with mainline and hooked	Petrel made contact with the mainline during setting and flew away uninjured. Petrel was hooked during setting across the shoulder and dragged underwater.
Trawl	Cape Petrels	9	9				Collision warp wires	Birds flew into warp wires and flew away uninjured.
	Total interactions	12	10	2				

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Dolphins* (unclassified)	1		1			Entangled	Caught in cod end drawstrings.
	Dwarf Sawfish	1		1			Entangled	
	Freshwater Sawfish	1	1				Entangled	
	Green Sawfish	34	32	2			Entangled	
	Narrow Sawfish	26	24	2			Entangled	
	Sawfishes (unclassified)	70	56	9	5		Entangled	
	Seahorses and pipefishes	1		1			Entangled	
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	2899	2271	276	21	331	Entangled	
	Flatback Turtle	1	1				Entangled	
	Green Turtle	7	4	3			Entangled	
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Entangled	
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	2	2				Entangled	
	Turtles (unclassified)	3	3				Entangled	
	Total interactions	3047	2395	295	26	331		

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)	9	1	8			Netted	
	New Zealand Fur Seal	2		2			Netted	
	Seals (unclassified)	1		1			Netted	
	Shortfin Mako**	17		17			Netted	
	White Shark*	2	2				Netted	
Longline	Albatrosses (unclassified)	2		2			Hooked	These mortalities occurred aboard a boat taking part in the GHAT autolongline trial.
	Australian Sea Lions	2	2				Hooked	Both sea lions were hooked during hauling and broke free

							on the surface. These occurred on separate trips.
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	136		136			Hooked 133 off these mortalities occurred aboard a boat taking part in the GHAT autolongline trial. The trial was suspended on 20 December 2012 and stricter mitigation measures were implemented. No boats took part in the trial after this date.
	Porbeagle Shark**	15		15			Hooked -
	Shortfin Mako**	9		9			Hooked -
	White Chinned Petrel	2		2			Hooked -
Mechanised Handline	Shortfin Mako**	55		55			Hooked -
	Total interactions	252	5	247			

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Shearwaters	1	1				Collision with warp wire -	
	Total interactions	1	1					

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Commonwealth Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Australian fur seal	21	1	20			Entangled	-
	Longfin Mako**	1		1			Entangled	-
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	1					Collision with warp wire	-
	Seals (unclassified)	20	2	18			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Seals (unclassified)	3		3			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	1		1			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	49	3	46				

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Seasnakes (unclassified)	242	173	69			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	242	173	69				

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Leatherback turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	2	1	1			Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako	3				3	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	122		1		121	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	128	2	2		124		

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

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

Small Pelagic Fishery

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

Southern Squid Jig Fishery

Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods

Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery