

# FINAL REPORT

## Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 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 October to 31 December 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	Green Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	2	1			1	Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	1		1			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle Shark**	1		1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	363		293		70	Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>370</b>	4	295		71		

## Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Common Dolphin*	1	1				Entangled	Tail tangled in try net lazy line. Released and swam away unharmed.
	Dwarf Sawfish	1		1			Entangled	-
	Green Sawfish	40	23	17			Entangled	-
	Narrow Sawfish	37	14	22	1		Entangled	-
	Sawfishes (unclassified)	50	43	3	4		Entangled	-
	Freshwater Sawfish	4	4				Entangled	-
	Seahorses and Pipefishes	18	9	9			Entangled	-
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	2834	2092	464	6	272	Entangled	-
	Flatback Turtle	3	3				Entangled	-
	Green Turtle	5	5				Entangled	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	5	5				Entangled	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	4	3	1			Entangled	-
	Turtles (unclassified)	9	9				Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>3012</b>	2212	517	11	272		

## Southern and Eastern Scalegfish and Shark Fishery - Gillnet, Hook & Trap Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Gillnet	Dolphins (unclassified)*	1		1			Netted	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	3		3			Netted	-
	Porbeagle Shark**	1		1			Netted	-
	Seals	1	1				Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	5		5			Netted	-
Longline	Shy Albatross	1	1				Hooked	The bird took bait while the crew untangled the tori line which became hooked up during the set. The bird freed itself after approximately 10 seconds. It flew away without any apparent damage.
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	31		31			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle Shark**	4		4			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	21		21			Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>68</b>	2	66				

## 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 OtterTrawl	Albatrosses	8		8			Entangled	-
	Australian Fur Seal	8		8			Entangled	-
	Dolphins	1		1			Entangled	-
	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	2		2			Entangled	-
	Seals (unclassified)	24	3	21			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	1		1			Entangled	-
Danish Seine	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	3	2	1			Entangled	-
	Seals	6	1	5			Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>53</b>	6	47				

## Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Seasnakes (unclassified)	<b>203</b>	145	1		57	Entangled	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>203</b>	145	1		57		

## Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type <sup>1</sup>	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Shortfin Mako**	<b>40</b>		4		36	Hooked	-
	<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>40</b>		4		36		

<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

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	
Coral Sea Fishery	Two vessels active
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	One vessel active
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	
Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery	
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	One vessel active
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	
Small Pelagic Fishery	One vessel active
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No fishing activity
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	One vessel active