

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 2015**

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 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. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 October to 31 December 2015** 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/>

This is the first final quarterly report to provide data from several Commonwealth fisheries which are now fully covered by electronic monitoring. Previously only some of the vessels in these fisheries were covered by electronic monitoring. Now all vessels have electronic monitoring systems 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).

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 October to 31 December 2015**

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Albatrosses	2		2			Hooked	-
	Baleen whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1		1			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	6	6				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	2	2				Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	1				1	Hooked	-
	Melon-headed whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	3				3	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	546	1	183		362	Hooked	-
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	1	1				Hooked	-
	Turtles	5	4			1	Hooked	-
	Whales (mixed)*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Total interactions	571	18	186		367		

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Southern Elephant Seal	1		1			Hooked	-
	Southern Elephant Seal	1		1			Tangled	-
	Seal unidentified	1		1			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	3		3				

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	Albatrosses	1		1			Netted	-
	Australian Fur Seal	10		10			Netted	-
	Australian Sea Lion	2		2			Netted	-
	Common dolphin*	6		6			Netted	-
	Cormorants	2		2			Netted	-
	Dolphins*	8		8			Netted	-
	Seals	7	1	6			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	8		8			Netted	-
	White sharks*	2	1	1			Netted	-
	Wilson's Storm Petrel	2	2				Netted	-
Demersal longline	Seals	1				1	Hooked	-
Demersal Autolongline	Petrels, Prions and Shearwaters	10	1	9			Hooked	-
	Porbeagles	3		3			Hooked	-
	Shy Albatross	2	1	1			Hooked	-
	White chinned Petrel	9	4	5			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	73	10	62		1		

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Australian Fur Seals	3		3			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	20	10	10			Netted	-
	Shy Albatross	1		1			Netted	-
	Total interactions	24	10	14				

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	13	1	12			Entangled	-
	Australian Fur Seal	7	3	4			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Entangled	-
Danish Seine	Seals	1		1			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	23	4	19				

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1				Entangled	-
	Total interactions	1	1					

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish	3	1	2			Entangled	-
	Flatback Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Freshwater Sawfish	3	3				Entangled	-
	Green Sawfish	1		1			Entangled	-
	Green Turtle	4	4				Entangled	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Narrow Sawfish	7	6	1			Entangled	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	2	2				Entangled	-
	Sawfishes (unclassified)	67	44	23			Entangled	-
	Seahorses and Pipefishes	44	15	29			Entangled	-
	Seasnakes (unclassified)	3251	2186	566	1	498	Entangled	-
	Turtles	11	11				Entangled	-
	Total interactions	3395	2274	622	1	498		

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Trawl	Seasnakes	111	44	3		64	Entangled	-
	Total interactions	111	44	3		64		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	2				2	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	33				33	Hooked	-
	Total interactions***	36	1			35		

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 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 2016 and are included in this report. However there were no reported interactions.

Fisheries recording no interactions

Fishery	Notes
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Fishing occurring
Coral Sea Fishery	Fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing activity
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing activity
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	No fishing activity
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No fishing activity
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	Fishing occurring
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity