

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2016**

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 and Energy 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 and Energy. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2016** 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 third 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 January to 31 March 2016**

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Birds	1		1			Hooked	
	Flatback Turtle	1		1			Hooked	
	Flesh Footed Shearwater	2	1	1			Hooked	
	Green Turtle	12	8	4			Hooked	
	Hawksbill Turtle	1		1			Hooked	
	Leatherback Turtle	4	4				Hooked	
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Hooked	
	Longfin Mako	1				1	Hooked	
	Long-finned pilot whale	1	1				Hooked	
	Porbeagle	2				2	Hooked	
	Shearwaters	2		2			Hooked	
	Shortfin Mako	246		89		157	Hooked	
	Toothed whales	1	1					
Turtles	4	2	2			Hooked		
	Total interactions	279	18	101		160		

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Commonwealth Trawl Sector

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type#	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Bottom Otter Trawl	Albatrosses	3		3			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	5		5			Entangled	-
	Seals	2		2			Entangled	-
Danish Seine	Australian fur seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seals	1		1			Entangled	-
	Total interactions	12		12				

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		
Autolongline	Killer whales	1		1			Hooked	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	3		3			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	4		4			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	9		9			Hooked	-
	Shy Albatross	2	2				Hooked	-
	White Chinned Petrel	3	2	1			Hooked	-
Gillnet	Birds	3	1	2			Netted	-
	Common dolphin	6		5		1	Netted	-
	Cormorants	3		3			Netted	-
	Dolphins	2		2			Netted	-
	Fairy Prion	1		1			Netted	-
	Little Penguin	6	6				Netted	-
	New Zealand fur seal	3		3			Netted	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	24	1	23			Netted	-
	Seals	1		1			Netted	-
	Shearwaters	8		8			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako	23	1	20		2	Netted	-
	White Shark	6	5			1	Netted	-
Longline	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	110	18	88		4		

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Otter Trawl	Albatrosses	1		1			Netted	-
	Australian fur seal	18	2	16			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako	3	2	1			Netted	-
	Shy Albatross	6		6			Netted	-
	Whale shark	1	1				Netted	-
	Total interactions	29	5	24				

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Flatback Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1				Entangled	-
	Narrow Sawfish	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seahorses & pipefishes	2		1		1	Entangled	-
	Seals	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seasnakes	75	45	2		28	Entangled	-
	Turtles	2	2				Entangled	-
	Total interactions	83	51	3		29		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Flatback Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Seals	1	1				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	22				22	Hooked	-
	Total interactions***	25	3			22		

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 and Energy 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	No fishing activity
Coral Sea Fishery	No fishing activity
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing activity
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Fishing occurring
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing activity
Heard Island and Macdonald Island Fishery	Fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing activity
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity
Northern Prawn Fishery	No fishing activity
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Fishing occurring
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No fishing activity
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	No fishing activity
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No fishing activity