

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 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 July to 30 September 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/>

All vessels 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) have had electronic monitoring systems since 1 July 2015.

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 July to 30 September 2016**

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	7	2	5			Hooked	-
	Australian gannet	1	1				Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	4	1	3			Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	9	7	2			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	14	14				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	1		1			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	6	1			5	Hooked	-
	Seals	1	1				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	760		290		470	Hooked	-
	Short-finned pilot whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Silky Shark***	5				5	Hooked	-
	Toothed whales*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Turtles	3	2	1			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	814	32	302		480		

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	1	1				Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	31	4	27			Entangled	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seals	4	1	3			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian Fur Seal	2	1	1			Entangled	-
	Seals	1		1			Entangled	-
	Shortfin mako**	1		1			Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	41	8	33				

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Otter Trawl	New Zealand fur seal	2		2			Netted	-
	Australian fur seal	21	4	17			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	20	8	12			Netted	-
	Shy albatross	1		1			Netted	-
Purse Seine	Cormorants	1		1			Netted	-
	Total interactions	44	12	32				

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Gillnet	Albatrosses	1	1				Netted	-
	Australian fur seal	3		3			Netted	-
	Australian gannet	1	1				Netted	-
	Common dolphins*	5		5			Netted	-
	Dolphins*	2		2			Netted	-
	Pacific Gull	1		1			Netted	-
	Seals	5		5			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	6		6			Netted	-
	White faced Storm Petrel	1	1				Netted	-
Dropline	Shortfin Mako**	2		2			Hooked	-
Demersal longline	Shortfin Mako**	1		1			Hooked	-
	White Shark*	1	1				Hooked	-
Total interactions		29	4	25				

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	Seahorses & Pipefishes	1		1			Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
Total interactions		2		2				

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Seahorses & Pipefishes	7		7			Netted	-
	Seasnakes	216	101	7	1	107	Netted	-
	Total interactions	223	101	14	1	107		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Australian Sea lion	3	3				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	101				101	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	104	3			101		

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total					Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Porbeagles**	2		2			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	2		2				

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total					Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Crabeater seal	1		1			Hooked	-
	Southern elephant seal	2		2			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	3		3				

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Green Turtle	5	5				Netted	-
	Narrow Sawfish	8	5	3			Netted	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Sawfishes	154	75	79			Netted	-
	Seahorses & pipefishes	545	357	188			Netted	-
	Seasnakes	4437	3470	958	5	4	Netted	-
	Turtles	28	28				Netted	-
	Total interactions	5178	3941	1228	5	4		

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 2015.

Fisheries recording no interactions

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