

FINAL REPORT

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

Sara Murphy
Senior Environment Officer
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Tel: (02) 6225 5555
Email: Sara.murphy@afma.gov.au

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Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	12	2	10			Hooked	-
	Dolphins*	3	3				Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	6	4	2			Hooked	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	8	8				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	3	2	1			Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	4				4	Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	1				1	Hooked	-
	Shearwaters	2		2			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	562		217		345	Hooked	-
	Short-finned pilot whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Silky Shark***	7				7	Hooked	-
	Turtles	3	3				Hooked	-
Total Interactions	613	24	232		357			

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	2		2			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	18	4	14			Entangled	-
	Buller's Albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
	Common Dolphin*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Grey-headed albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
	White Chinned Petrel	1	1				Entangled	-
	White Shark*	1	1				Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian Fur Seal	2		2			Entangled	-
	Seals	3	1	2			Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	30	7	23				

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	1		1			Netted	-
	Antarctic fur seal	1		1			Netted	-
	Shortfin Mako**	11	8	3			Netted	-
Purse Seine	Cormorants	1		1			Netted	-
	Total interactions	14	8	6				

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

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unkno wn		
Dropline	Shortfin Mako**	4		4			Hooked	-
Autolongline	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Hooked	-
	Flesh Footed Shearwater	8		8			Hooked	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	21		21			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	13		7	6		Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	8		4	4		Hooked	-
	White Chinned Petrel	4	1	3			Hooked	-
Gillnet	Australian fur seal	5		5			Entangled	-
	Australian sea lion	1		1			Entangled	-
	Birds	2		2			Entangled	-
	Common dolphins*	7	1	6			Entangled	-
	Cormorants	8		8			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	7		7			Entangled	-
	Grey nurse shark*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Little Penguin	3		3			Entangled	-
	New Zealand fur seal	2		2			Entangled	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	29		29			Entangled	-
	Seals	12	2	10			Entangled	-
	Shearwaters	2		2			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	15		12	3		Entangled	-
	White Shark	1	1				Entangled	-
Wilson's Storm Petrel	2	2				Entangled	-	

Demersal longline	Albatrosses	1		1			Hooked	-
	Total Interactions	157	7	137	14			

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Seasnakes	109	78	7		31	Netted	-
	Total interactions	109	78	7		31		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Bentfin Devil Ray***	1				1	Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	114				114	Hooked	-
	Total interactions	116		1		115		

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total					Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Seal	1		1			Hooked	-
	Southern elephant seal	2		2			Hooked	-
	White Chinned Petrels	4		4			Hooked	-
	Macaroni Penguin	1		1			Hooked	-
	Southern elephant seal	1		1			Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	9		9				

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish***	1		1			Netted	-
	Flatback Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Narrow Sawfish***	8	6	2			Netted	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	2	2				Netted	-
	Sawfishes	72	50	22			Netted	-
	Seahorses & pipefishes	21	4	17			Netted	-
	Seasnakes	2920	2128	792			Netted	-
	Turtles	12	12				Netted	-
	Total interactions	3037	2203	834				

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.

*** 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
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Some fishing occurring
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