

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2017**

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 2017** 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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Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	9	3	6			Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Hooked	-
	Dolphins*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	44	36	8			Hooked	-
	Grey nurse shark*	4				4	Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	15	15				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	3	3				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	2				2	Hooked	-
	Shearwaters	2		2			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	252		124		128	Hooked	-
	Short-finned pilot whale*	4	4				Hooked	-
	Silky Shark***	48				48	Hooked	-
	Turtles	7	6	1			Hooked	-
	Whales (mixed)*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Total Interactions	393	69	142		182		

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	7	1	5	1		Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	26	3	23			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	2		2			Entangled	-
	Seals	4	1	3			Entangled	-
	Shy albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian Fur Seal	2		2			Entangled	-
	Seals	1	1				Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	44	6	37	1			

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	Unkno wn		
Autolongline	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	3		3			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	1				1	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	14		4		10	Hooked	-
	Shy Albatross	2	2				Hooked	-
	White Chinned Petrel	2		2			Hooked	-
Gillnet	Albatrosses	3	2	1			Entangled	-
	Bottlenose dolphin*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	2		2			Entangled	-
	Cormorants	3		3			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	12		12			Entangled	-
	Fairy Prion	1		1			Entangled	-
	Grey nurse shark*	2	1			1	Entangled	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	4		4			Entangled	-
	Red Cormorant	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seahorses & pipefishes	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seals	3		3			Entangled	-
	Shearwaters (mixed)	7	6	1			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	20		18		2	Entangled	-
	White Shark*	9	7	2			Entangled	-
Total Interactions		91	19	58		14		

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Seasnakes	70	54	7		9	Netted	-
	Green Sawfish***	3	3				Netted	-
	Turtles	1	1				Netted	-
	Total interactions	74	58	7		9		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Albatrosses	1		1			Hooked	-
	Flesh Footed Shearwater	8	7	1			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	6	6				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	1				1	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	52				52	Hooked	-
	Shy Albatross	1		1			Hooked	-
	Wandering Albatross	1		1			Hooked	-
	Total interactions	70	13	4		53		

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	No fishing occurring
Coral Sea Fishery	Some fishing occurring
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing occurring
Heard Island and McDonald island Fisheries	Some fishing occurring
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Northern Prawn Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Small Pelagic Fishery	No 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	No fishing occurring

