

FINAL REPORT

Protected species interactions reported in Commonwealth Fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 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 April to 30 June 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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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
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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	2		2			Hooked	-
	Dolphins*	4	4				Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	30	23	7			Hooked	-
	Grey nurse shark*	1				1	Hooked	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	7	7				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	13	8	5			Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako**	10				10	Hooked	-
	Melon-headed Whale*	1		1			Hooked	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	2	1	1			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle**	25		15		10	Hooked	-
	Shearwaters	1	1				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	563		202		361	Hooked	-
	Short-finned pilot whale*	1		1			Hooked	-
	Silky Shark***	117				117	Hooked	-
	Turtles	5	4	1			Hooked	-
Whales (mixed)*	3	3				Hooked	-	
	Total Interactions	786	52	235		499		

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	3		3			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	33	6	27			Entangled	-
	Bottlenose dolphin*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	2		2			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Seals	1	1				Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian Fur Seal	4	2	2			Entangled	-
	Seals	2	2				Entangled	-
Total Interactions		47	11	36				

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		
Demersal Longline	Albatrosses	1		1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	1		1			Hooked	
	White Shark*	1	1				Hooked	
Autolongline	Longfin Mako**	4				4	Hooked	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	1		1			Hooked	-
	Seals	1		1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	1		1			Hooked	-
Gillnet	Albatrosses	1		1			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	4	1	3			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	6		6			Entangled	-
	Cormorants	8		8			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	10	1	9			Entangled	-
	Imperial Shag	2		2			Entangled	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	5	2	3			Entangled	-
	Seahorses & pipefishes	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seals	4		4			Entangled	-
	Shearwaters (mixed)	1		1			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako**	38	1	28		9	Entangled	-
	Terns	2	2				Entangled	
	White Shark*	3	2	1			Entangled	-
Total Interactions	94	11	70		13			

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Seasnakes	4	3	1			Netted	-
	Total interactions	4	3	1				

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	1	1				Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	3	3				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	1	1				Hooked	-
	New Zealand fur seal	1	1				Hooked	
	Porbeagle**	5				5	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako**	204		1		203	Hooked	-
	Short-finned pilot whale	1	1				Hooked	-
	Total interactions	217	7	2		208		

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total					Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	White Chinned Petrel	1		1			Hooked	-
	Grey Petrel	1		1			Hooked	-
	Southern Elephant Seal	2		2			Entangled	Both females
Total interactions		4		4				

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Freshwater Sawfish	24	24				Netted	
	Green Sawfish	7	7				Netted	-
	Green Turtle	3	3				Netted	-
	Narrow Sawfish	18	11	7			Netted	-
	Sawfishes	150	68	82			Netted	-
	Seahorses & pipefishes	3	1	2			Netted	-
	Seasnakes	1351	1015	334	2		Netted	-
	Turtles	9	9				Netted	-
Total interactions		1565	1138	425	2			

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
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Some fishing occurring
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Small Pelagic 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	No fishing occurring