

FINAL REPORT

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

Please note that this final report contains figures that vary from the preliminary report to a greater degree than usual, due to an administrative error in the production of the preliminary report.

Should you require further information regarding these reports, please contact:

Bycatch and Discards Program
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
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Coral Sea Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Autolongline	Minke whale	1	1				Hooked	-
	Total Interactions	1	1					

Eastern 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	-
	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Hooked	-
	Bottlenose dolphin*	1		1			Hooked	-
	Dolphins*	1	1				Hooked	-
	False killer whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	6	5			1	Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	21	20			1	Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	4	3	1			Hooked	-
	Longfin Mako	8				8	Hooked	-
	Long-finned pilot whale*	3	3				Hooked	-
	Melon-headed whale*	2	2				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	108	1	13		94	Hooked	-
	Shearwaters	1		1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	803		243		560	Hooked	-
	Short-finned pilot whale	1	1				Hooked	-
	Silky Shark	27				27	Hooked	-
	Turtles	3	1	1		1	Hooked	-
	Whales (mixed)*	2	2				Hooked	-
	Total Interactions	994	40	262	0	692		

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	Australian fur seal	20	4	16			Entangled	-
	Seals	3	1	2			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian Fur Seal	4	1	3			Entangled	-
	Seals	2	1	1			Entangled	-
Total Interactions		29	7	22				

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	White Shark*	1	1				Hooked	
Gillnet	Albatrosses	1			1		Entangled	-
	Australian sea lion	1		1			Entangled	-
	Bottlenose dolphin*	3		3			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	5		5			Entangled	-
	Cormorants	1		1			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	10		10			Entangled	-
	Longfin Mako	1		1			Entangled	-
	New Zealand fur seal	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seals	6		6			Entangled	-
	Shearwaters (mixed)	1		1			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako	4		3		1	Entangled	-
Total Interactions		35	2	31	1	1		

High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO area of waters)

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Autolongline	White Shark*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Total Interactions	1	1					

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Seasnakes	60	60				Netted	-
	Total Interactions	60	60					

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Leatherback Turtle	3	3				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	4	4				Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	83				83	Hooked	-
	Short-finned pilot whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Whales (mixed)*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Wilson's storm petrel	1	1				Hooked	-
	Total Interactions	93	10			83		

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Southern Giant Petrel	1		1			Collision ²	Did not interact with fishing gear
	Southern Elephant Seal	2		1			Hooked	-
				1			Entangled	-
	Seal	2		1			Hooked	-
				1			Entangled	-
Total Interactions		5		5				

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Dwarf Sawfish	2	2				Netted	-
	Flatback Turtle	3	1			2	Netted	-
	Freshwater Sawfish	1					Netted	-
	Green Sawfish	9	7	2			Netted	-
	Green Turtle	3	3				Netted	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	2	2				Netted	-
	Narrow Sawfish	56	49	7			Netted	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	3	3				Netted	-
	Sawfishes	125	90	35			Netted	-
	Seahorses & pipefishes	43	23	20			Netted	-
	Seasnakes	3955	3079	872		4	Netted	-
	Terns	1	1				Landed on vessel	-
	Turtles	19	18	1			Netted	-
Total interactions		4223	3280	937		6		

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Seals	1		1			Netted	-
	Total interactions	1		1				

¹ Interaction type assumed where not recorded based on fishery method (hooked for longlines, entangled for trawling, netted for gillnets)

² Interaction types reported in Southern Ocean fisheries are not assumed (as per footnote 1). As described above, AFMA does not assume “collision” in the case that interaction type information is not available. However, these assumed interaction types may include collisions.

* 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
East Coast Deepwater Trawl	No fishing occurring
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Some fishing occurring
High Seas Fishery (SIOFA area of waters)	No fishing occurring
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	No fishing occurring
Torres Strait Fisheries (excluding prawn) – all methods	Some fishing occurring
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	No fishing occurring