

FINAL REPORT

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

Bycatch and Discards Program
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Tel: (02) 6225 5555
Email: Bycatch@afma.gov.au

FINAL REPORT

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

Northern Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Flatback Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Freshwater Sawfish	4	4				Netted	-
	Green Sawfish	5	5				Netted	-
	Green Turtle	3	3				Netted	-
	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Netted	-
	Narrow Sawfish	52	39	13			Netted	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	3	3				Netted	-
	Sawfishes	53	43	10			Netted	-
	Seahorses & Pipefishes	3	1	1		1	Netted	-
	Seasnakes	3745	2731	973		41	Netted	-
	Turtles	12	12				Netted	-
Total Interactions		3882	2843	997	0	42		

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Longline	Southern Giant Petrel	1		1			Collision	Not a fishing gear interaction
	Southern Elephant Seal	1		1			Hooked	-
Total Interactions		2		1	0	9		

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life Status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic longline	Albatrosses	21	7	14			Hooked	-
	Black Browed Albatross	1		1			Hooked	-
	Cormorants	1	1				Hooked	-
	Dolphins*	3	3				Hooked	-
	Dugong	1		1			Hooked	-
	Flesh Footed Shearwater	2		2			Hooked	-
	Green Turtle	15	13	2			Hooked	-
	Hawksbill Turtle	1		1			Hooked	-
	Leatherback Turtle	9	9				Hooked	-
	Loggerhead Turtle	6	6				Hooked	-
	Long-finned pilot whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Melon-headed whale*	1	1				Hooked	-
	Pacific (Olive) Ridley Turtle	3	3				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	18				18	Hooked	-
	Seals	2	2				Hooked	-
	Shearwaters	2		2			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	663		261		402	Hooked	-
	Silky Shark	203				203	Hooked	-
	Sooty Shearwater	1		1			Hooked	-
	Turtles	3	2	1			Hooked	-
Wandering Albatross	1	1				Hooked	-	
Total Interactions		958	49	286	0	623		

Small Pelagic Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Midwater Trawl	Australian Fur Seal	1		1			Netted	-
	Bottlenose Dolphin	4		4			Netted	-
	Total Interactions	217	199	9	0	9		

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	10	2	8			Entangled	-
	Australian fur seal	30	9	21			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	1		1			Entangled	-
	Grey Nurse Shark*	1	1				Entangled	-
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1				Entangled	-
	Seals	2	2				Entangled	-
	Shy Albatross	1		1			Entangled	-
Danish seine	Australian Fur Seal	5	2	3			Entangled	-
	Seals	1	1				Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	53	18	35	0	0		

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	Unknown		
Dropline	Shortfin Mako	1		1			Hooked	-
Demersal Auto-Longline	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	10		10			Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	3		1		2	Hooked	-
	Seals	2	1	1			Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	8		5		3	Hooked	-
	White Chinned Petrel	3	1	2			Hooked	-
Demersal Longline	Shortfin Mako	2		2			Hooked	-
	White Shark	2	2				Hooked	-
Gillnet	Australian fur seal	3		3			Entangled	-
	Common dolphin*	7	1	6			Entangled	-
	Cormorants	2		2			Entangled	-
	Dolphins*	11		10	1		Entangled	-
	Petrels Prions and Shearwaters	6	2	4			Entangled	-
	Seals	13		13			Entangled	-
	Shearwaters (mixed)	8		8			Entangled	-
	Short Tailed Shearwater	1		1			Entangled	-
	Shortfin Mako	12	1	9		2	Entangled	-
	White Shark*	2	2				Entangled	-
	Total Interactions	91	9	74	1	7		

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Prawn Trawl	Sawfishes	1	1				Netted	-
	Seasnakes	140	138	2			Netted	-
	Total Interactions	141	139	2	0	0		

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Gear Type	Common name	Total	Life status				Interaction type ¹	Comments
			Alive	Dead	Injured	Unknown		
Pelagic Longline	Leatherback Turtle	1	1				Hooked	
	New Zealand Fur Seal	1	1				Hooked	-
	Porbeagle	3				3	Hooked	-
	Shortfin Mako	70				70	Hooked	-
	Total Interactions	75	2	0	0	73		

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
Coral Sea 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
High Seas Fishery (SPRFMO area of waters)	No fishing occurring
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	No fishing occurring
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	No fishing occurring
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Some fishing occurring
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	No 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