

## Reporting of interactions with listed species in the Commonwealth managed fisheries

Species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) fall into four main categories:

- a member of a listed threatened species or listed threatened ecological community,
- a member of a listed migratory species,
- a member of a listed marine species; or
- a cetacean.

Under the EPBC Act 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 Act. However, the Act specifies certain actions are not offences, including actions authorised by a permit or undertaken in accordance with an accredited management plan or regime.

All interactions with protected species, whether authorised or not, must be reported to the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) within seven days. This requirement to report all interactions includes fishers operating in Commonwealth fisheries managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

In 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed between the Managing Director of AFMA and the Secretary of DEW. This MOU allows AFMA to report interactions with protected species (listed under the EPBC Act) in Commonwealth managed fisheries to DEW on behalf of fishers. An interaction is considered any physical contact an individual (person), boat or gear has with a protected species including catching and colliding with any of these species.

The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 April to 30 June 2006** is given below. This record is compiled from official logbook records that are submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders); all concession holders have agreed to AFMA supplying this data to DEW on their behalf.

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Fishing Method</b>	<b>Interactions</b>	<b>Life/Status</b>
Sub-Antarctic	Imperial Shag/ Cormorant	Trap	1	Dead
	Fairy Prion	Midwater	1	Dead
	Cape Petrel	Longline	2	Alive - 2
	Leopard Seal	Demersal trawl	1	Dead
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Pilot whale	Longline	1	Alive
	Green turtle	Longline	1	Alive
	Leatherback turtle	Longline	5	Alive - 4 Dead - 1

	Loggerhead turtle	Longline	1	Alive
	Turtle	Longline	3	Alive - 1 Dead - 2
	Mutton bird	Longline	1	Dead
	Seabird	Longline	2	Alive - 1 Dead - 1
	Wandering Albatross	Longline	1	Dead
	Grey Nurse Shark	Longline	1	Alive
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Leatherback turtle	Longline	1	Alive
	Loggerhead turtle	Longline	1	Alive
Northern Prawn Fishery	Flatback turtle	Trawl	2	Alive - 2
	Green turtle	Trawl	5	Alive - 5
	Hawksbill turtle	Trawl	2	Alive - 2
	Loggerhead turtle	Trawl	2	Alive - 1 Dead - 1
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely turtle	Trawl	1	Alive
	Turtles	Trawl	2	Alive - 2
	Seahorses & pipefishes	Trawl	4	Dead - 1 Unknown - 3
	Seasnakes	Trawl	1939	Alive - 1220 Dead - 226 Injured - 42 Unknown - 451
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Flatback turtle	Trawl	1	Alive
	Green turtle	Trawl	1	Alive
	Seahorses & pipefishes	Trawl	1	Alive
	Seasnakes	Trawl	486	Alive - 295 Dead - 22 Injured - 3 Unknown - 166
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Albatross	Trawl	1	Dead
	Grey nurse Shark	Trawl	1	Alive
	Seals	Trawl	16	Alive - 3 Dead - 12 Unknown - 1
	Great White Shark	Trawl	1	Dead
	Albatross	Automatic Longline	1	Dead
	Black browed Albatross	Automatic Longline	1	Dead
Small Pelagic Fishery	Seals	Trawl	1	Dead

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

Tim Smith  
**Environment Policy Section**  
**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

**Box 7051**  
**Canberra Business Centre. Canberra. ACT 2610**  
**Tel: (02) 6225 5555**