

## 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 July to 30 September 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	Cape Petrel	Trawl	1	Dead
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Albatross	Longline	7	Alive - 3 Dead - 4
	Mutton bird	Longline	2	Dead - 2
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Leatherback turtle	Longline	1	Alive
Northern Prawn Fishery	Flatback turtle	Trawl	8	Alive - 8
	Green turtle	Trawl	4	Alive - 4
	Hawksbill turtle	Trawl	4	Alive - 4
	Pacific (Olive) Ridely	Trawl	4	Alive - 4

	turtle			
	Turtles	Trawl	6	Alive - 6
	Seahorses & pipefishes	Trawl	31	Alive - 14 Dead - 4 Unknown - 13
	Seasnakes	Trawl	4550	Alive - 2848 Dead - 541 Injured - 45 Unknown - 1116
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Seahorses & pipefishes	Trawl	2	Alive - 1 Unknown - 1
	Seasnakes	Trawl	338	Alive - 154 Dead - 6 Injured - 1 Unknown - 177
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Black browed Albatross	Trawl	3	Dead - 3
	Seals	Trawl	68	Alive - 18 Dead - 50
	Great white shark	Gillnet	2	Alive - 2

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

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