

## **Protected Species Reporting for all Commonwealth Fisheries under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999***

Species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (1999)* 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 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 authorized by a permit or undertaken in accordance with an accredited management plan or regime.

All interactions with protected species, whether authorized or not, must be reported to the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) 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 DEH. This MOU allows AFMA to report interactions with protected species (listed under the EPBC Act) in Commonwealth managed fisheries to DEH 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 October to 31 December 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 DEH on their behalf.

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

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Protected species interaction report from AFMA logbooks for period 1 October to 31 December 2006

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of interactions</b>	<b>Life status</b>	<b>Interaction type #</b>
Sub-Antarctic	Trawl	Antarctic fur seal	4	Dead - 4	Entangled
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	Green Turtle	1	Dead	Hooked
	Longline	Leatherback Turtle	2	Alive - 2	Hooked
	Longline	Muttonbird	3	Dead - 3	Hooked
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Dolphins	1	Dead	Entangled
	Trawl	Flatback turtle	2	Alive - 2	Entangled
	Trawl	Green turtle	1	Alive	Entangled
	Trawl	Turtles (not specified)	2	Alive - 2	Entangled
	Trawl	Seahorses & pipefishes	7	Alive - 3	Entangled
	Trawl	Seasnakes	3156	Dead - 2 Unknown - 2 Alive - 2123 Dead - 350 Injured - 32 Unknown - 651	Entangled
	Trawl	Seasnakes	27	Alive - 9 Dead - 1 Unknown - 17	Entangled
Southern and Eastern Scafish and Shark Fishery	Longline	Flesh Footed Shearwater	2	Dead - 2	Hooked
	Gillnet	Great White Shark*	1	Dead	Netted
	Gillnet	Sealion	1	Dead	Netted
	Longline	Shy Albatross	2	Dead - 2	Hooked
	Gillnet	New Zealand fur seal	1	Dead	Netted
	Trawl	Albatross	1	Dead	Entangled
	Trawl	Seals	20	Alive - 2 Dead - 18	Entangled

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