

## **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 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 January to 31 March 2007 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.

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

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<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of interactions</b>	<b>Life status</b>	<b>Interaction type#</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	Green Turtle	2	Dead- 1 Alive -1	Hooked Hooked	
	Longline	Hawksbill Turtle	2	Dead - 1 Alive - 1	Hooked Hooked	
	Longline	Loggerhead Turtle	2	Alive- 2	Hooked	
	Longline	Turtle (unspecified sp.)	1	Alive	Hooked	
	Longline	Small toothed Whale*	1	Alive	Entangled	
	Longline	False Killer Whale*	1	Alive	Hooked	
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Flatback Turtle	3	Alive - 3	Entangled	
	Trawl	Leatherback Turtle	1	Unknown - 1	Entangled	
	Trawl	Seahorses & Pipefishes	1	Alive	Entangled	
	Trawl	Seasnakes	327	Alive - 195 Injured - 1 Unknown - 131	Entangled Entangled Entangled	
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Trawl	Grey Nurse Shark*	1	Dead - 1	Entangled	
	Trawl	Albatross	1	Dead - 1	Collision	Adult flew into warp
	Trawl	Seals	15	Alive - 5 Dead - 10	Entangled Entangled	
	Gillnet	Seals*	6	Dead - 6	Netted	5 believed to be sea lions
	Gillnet	Great White Shark*	1	Dead	Netted	
	Gillnet	Dolphin*	2	Dead - 2	Netted	
Small Pelagic Fishery	Trawl	Seals	3	Dead - 3	Entangled	Trapped in new SED

\* Interactions previously reported to DEH via automatic trigger reporting

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