

## **Protected Species Reporting for all Commonwealth Fisheries under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (amended January, 2007)***

Under the *Environmental 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 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. Species listed under the 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.

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 July to 30 Sept 2007 is below. This record is compiled from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders); all concession holders have agreed to AFMA supplying this data to DEW on their behalf. 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.

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

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Final Protected Species interactions reported in AFMA logbooks for period 1 July - 30 September 2007

Fishery	Gear	Species	Number of interactions	Life status (Alive/Dead/Injured/Unknown)	Interaction type#	Comments
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Harvester	-	NIL	-	-	-
Coral Sea Fishery	Multiple methods	-	NIL	-	-	-
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	Leatherback Turtle	1	Alive - 1	Hooked	-
		Great White Shark*	2	Alive-1 Dead-1	Hooked	-
		Pilot Whale	1	Alive-1	Hooked	-
		Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	Dead - 1	Hooked	-
Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery	Longline	Elephant Seal	1	Dead - 1	Entangled	Seal tangled in line. Approx 900kg 2-3 metres in length. Pulled free of tangle when brought to the surface. May have been dead for some time as significant sea lice damage.
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Trawl & Longline	-	NIL	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Trawl & minor line	-	NIL	-	-	-
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	Flatback Turtle	5	Alive - 5	Entangled	-
		Loggerhead Turtle	1	Alive - 1	Entangled	-
		Green Turtle	2	Alive - 2	Entangled	-
		Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	1	Alive - 1	Entangled	-
		Turtles (unspecified)	5	Alive - 5	Entangled	-
		Seahorses & Pipefishes	13	Alive - 1 Dead - 11 Unkown - 1	Entangled	-
		Seasnakes	3,714	Alive - 2678 Dead - 316 Injured - 38 Unkown -682	Entangled	-

Fishery	Gear	Species	Number of interactions	Life status (Alive/Dead/Injured/Unknown)	Interaction type#	Comments
Northern Prawn Fishery Cont..	Trawl	Sawfish**	51	Alive - 29 Dead - 18 Injured - 4	Entangled	Includes Green, Narrow and unspecified species
Northwest Slope Fishery	Trawl	-	NIL	-	-	-
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	purse seine, longline & minor line	-	NIL	-	-	-
Small Pelagic Fishery	Purse seine & midwater trawl	-	NIL	-	-	-
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Purse seine	-	NIL	-	-	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-Great Australian Bight Trawl	Trawl	Seal	1	Alive - 1	Entangled	
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-Gillnet, Hook & Trap	Gillnet	Seal	1	Dead - 1	Netted	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-South-east Trawl	Trawl	Seal	34	Alive - 8 Dead - 22 Unknown - 4	Entangled	-
		Seabird	1	Dead - 1	Entangled	The bird hit a warp and drowned
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Jig	-	NIL	-	-	-
Torres Strait Fisheries	Trawl	Leatherback Turtle	1	Alive - 1	Entangled	-
		Seahorses & Pipefishes	7	Alive - 1 Unknown - 6	Entangled	-
		Seasnakes	374	Alive - 138 Dead - 1 Unknown -234	Entangled	-
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Trawl	-	NIL	-	-	-
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	-	NIL	-	-	-

#Where not recorded, interaction type is assumed based on fishery method (hooked for longlines, entangled for trawling, netted for gillnets)

\*Interaction previously reported to DEWHA via triggered reporting.

\*\*Apart from the freshwater species, all other species of sawfish from the Pristidae family are not listed under the EPBC Act. However, the entire Pristidae family is listed under CITES