

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

In 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed between the Managing Director of AFMA and the Secretary of DEWHA. This MoU allows AFMA to report interactions with protected species (listed under the EPBC Act) in Commonwealth managed fisheries to DEWHA on behalf of fishers.

AFMA provides periodical summary reports of protected species interactions, by fishery and sub-fishery, to DEWHA. The record of protected species interactions for all AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period 1 January to 31 March 2008 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 DEWHA 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.

All interaction information provided to DEWHA is for information purposes only. Names of persons or boats are not provided. AFMA uses interaction information to develop management arrangements to minimise the likelihood of future protected species interactions.

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

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Final Protected species interaction report from AFMA logbooks for period 1 January to 31 March 2008

Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Species	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Harvester	NIL	-	-	-
Coral Sea Fishery	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	1	Loggerhead turtle	Alive-1	Hooked
		1	Shearwaters	Dead-1	Hooked
		1	Albatross	Alive -1	Hooked
Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery	Longline	NIL	-	-	-
	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Trawl & minor line	NIL	-	-	-
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	1	Flatback turtle	Alive-1	Entangled
		2	Green sawfish	Alive-2	Entangled
		18	Sawfishes(unclassified)	Alive-13 Dead- 5	Entangled
		112	Seasnakes	Alive-37 Dead-3 Unknown-72	Entangled
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	NIL	-	-	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-Gillnet, Hook & Trap	Gillnet	2	Dolphin*	Dead - 2	Netted
		1	Great White Shark*	Alive-1	Netted
		1	Grey nurse shark*	Alive	Netted
		1	Sealions	Dead	Netted
		2	Seals	Dead	Netted
	Longline	1	Great White Shark*	Dead-1	Hooked
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-Sout East Trawl	Trawl	1	Dolphins	Dead-1	Entangled
		8	Seals	Dead-8	Entangled
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Jig	NIL	-	-	-
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	134	Seasnakes	Alive-39 Dead-5 Unknown-90	Entangled
Torres Strait Fisheries (other)	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	NIL	-	-	-

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

* Interactions previously reported to DEWHA via triggered reporting

Note: The Antarctic fisheries have 100% observer coverage