

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 July to 30 September 2008 is below. This record is compiled from official logbook records submitted to AFMA by fishers (concession holders). 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 report, please contact:

Justine Johnston
Senior Environment Officer
Threatened, Endangered & Protected Species (TEPS)
Environment & Research Section
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Box 7051
Canberra Business Centre.
Canberra. ACT 2610
Tel: (02) 6225 5415
Justine.Johnston@afma.gov.au

Final Protected species interaction report from AFMA logbooks for period 1 July to 30 September 2008

Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Common name	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	2	Leatherback turtle	Alive-2	Hooked	-
		5	Black Browed Albatross	Alive-2 Dead-3	Hooked	Hook was carefully removed and 2 birds were returned unharmed to the water. Observer retained 1 dead bird for necropsy.
		1	Shy Albatross	Dead-1		Observer retained birds for necropsy
	Hand line	1	Seal	Alive-1	Foraging	Seal was foraging on bait and catch but didn't get hooked
Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery	Longline	1	Antarctic fur seal*	Dead-1	Entangled	Seal entangled in the mainline
		1	Seal (unclassified)*	Alive-1	Hooked	Seal hooked briefly when line hauling but swam away with no apparent injury.

		3	Giant petrel*	Alive-1 Dead-2	1 Hooked 1 Entangled 1 Collision	1 Bird became entangled in tori line and had its wing entangled for 3-4 minutes. Bird was released alive but fell into the water rather than flying away. Skipper claims to have seen the bird fly away. 1 Bird was found dead on wheelhouse roof with a broken leg. 1 Bird was hooked in wing during setting operations and found dead after hauling. There was a lot of bird activity at the time of setting.
		2	Elephant seal*	Dead-2	Entangled	1 Female weighing around 200 kgs was hooked and found entangled on the line. 1 Male weighing approx 2000 kgs was found entangled in the line.
	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Longline	1	New Zealand fur seal	Injured-1	Entangled	NZ fur seal swam into the moon pool and was hooked in the right flipper. The seal swam out of the moon pool with the hook embedded in the flipper
	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Trawl & minor line	NIL	-	-	-	-
Northern Prawn Fishery	Bottom Trawl	5	Flatback turtle	Alive-5	Entangled	-
		2	Loggerhead turtle	Alive-2	Entangled	-
		3	Pacific (Olive) Ridely turtle	Alive-3	Entangled	
		2	Hawksbill turtle	Alive-2	Entangled	-
		53	Narrow sawfish	Alive-32 Dead-10 Injured-11	Entangled	-

		120	Sawfish (unclassified)	Alive-105 Dead-13 Injured-2	Entangled	-
		32	Seahorses & Pipefishes	Alive-13 Dead-5 Unkown-14	Entangled	-
		2573	Seasnakes	Alive-2320 Dead-158 Injured-25 Unknown-70	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	NIL	-	-	-	-
	Longline	NIL	-	-	-	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-South East Trawl	Trawl	1	Black Browed Albatross	Dead-1	Unknown	-
		3	Shy Albatross	Dead-3	Entangled	-
		40	Seals	Alive-15 Dead-25	Entangled	-
Southern Squid Jig	Jig	NIL	-	-	-	-

Fishery						
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	2	Green turtle	Unknown-2	Unknown	-
		220	Seasnakes	Alive-152 Dead-2 Injured-2 Unknown-64	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 or other reporting arrangements

Note:

The Antarctic fisheries have 100% observer coverage