



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

31 May 2009

Protected Species reporting for all Commonwealth Fisheries under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* (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 authorised 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 authorised or not, must be reported to the Department of the Environment and 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).

In 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Managing Director of AFMA and the Secretary of DEW was established. 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.

AFMA periodically provides summary reports of protected species interactions, by fishery and sub-fishery to DEWHA. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 January to 31 March 2009** is given 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.



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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 January to 31 March 2009

Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Species	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	1	Leatherback turtle	Alive -1	-	-
		1	Loggerhead turtle	Alive -1	-	-
		1	Whale (unidentified)*	Alive -1	-	-
Heard Island and McDonald	Longline	NIL	-	-	-	-



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Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Species	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#	Comments
Island Fishery	Trawl	1	Cape petrel	Dead - 1	Collision	Bird caught in the paravene - wing had been caught between the end of the cable and the paravene frame. Likely to have been caught when paravene broke the water surface
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Trawl & minor line	NIL	-	-	-	-
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-



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Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Species	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#	Comments
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery- Great Australian Bight	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery- Gillnet, Hook & Trap	Longline	NIL	-	-	-	-
	Gillnet	2	Great White Shark*	Alive - 2	Netted	One was a juvenile male approx 2.5 metres, caught by the teeth in the net, returned to water and observed to swim away. The other was also a juvenile male approx 2.5 metres in length, fell out of net whilst hauling and swam next to boat.
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery- Sout East Trawl	Trawl	8	Seal	Alive - 2 Dead -6	Entangled	-
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Jig	NIL	-	-	-	-
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	132	Seasnake	Alive -92 Unknown - 36 Dead - 4	Entangled	-
		4	Sawfish (unclassified)	Alive -4	Entangled	-



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Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Species	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#	Comments
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