



31 November 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 DEWHA 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 April to 30 June 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.



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

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

Justine Johnston

Senior Environment Officer

Threatened, Endangered & Protected Species (TEPS)

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

73 Northbourne Ave, Civic ACT 2600

Or Box 7051, CBC Canberra ACT 2610

Ph: 02 6225 5415, 1300 723 621

Fax: 02 6225 5446

[Justine.Johnston@afma.gov.au](mailto:Justine.Johnston@afma.gov.au)

[www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au)

## Protected species interaction report from AFMA logbooks for period 1 April to 30 June 2009

Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Common name	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	2	Loggerhead turtle	Alive-2	Hooked
		1	Green turtle	Alive-1	Hooked
		1	Black Browed Albatross	Alive-1	unknown
Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery	Longline	2	Elephant Seal*	Dead-2	Entangled
		1	Cape Petrel*	Dead-1	Hooked
		1	Frigate Bird*	Dead-1	Unknown
		1	Giant Petrel*	Alive-1	Hooked
		2	Diving Petrel*	Alive-1 Dead-1	Unknown
		1	Blue Petrel*	Dead-1	Unknown
	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-



Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Common name	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Trawl & minor line	NIL	-	-	-
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	1	Dolphin*	Dead-1	Entangled
		25	Green sawfish	Alive-21 Dead-2 Injured-2	Entangled
		6	Narrow sawfish	Alive-5 Dead-1	Entangled
		154	Sawfish (unclassified)	Alive-141 Dead-8 Injured-5	Entangled
		5	Seahorses & Pipefishes	Alive-3 Dead-2	Entangled
		1302	Seasnakes	Alive-1127 Dead-120 Injured-21 Unknown-34	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	2	Shy Albatross	Dead - 2	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark	Gillnet	2	Dolphin*	Dead - 2	Netted



Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Common name	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#
Fishery-Gillnet, Hook & Trap		2	Great White Shark*	Alive-2 Unknown-1	Netted
	Longline	NIL	-	-	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery- South East Trawl	Trawl	14	Seals	Dead-13 Alive-1	Entangled
	Danish seine	1	Seals	Dead-1	Entangled
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Jig	NIL	-	-	-
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	1	Flatback turtle	Alive-1	Entangled
		551	Seasnakes	Alive-224 Dead-10 Unknown-317	Entangled
Torres Strait Fisheries (other)	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	1	Humpback Whale*	Alive-1	Depredation
		1	Loggerhead Turtle	Alive-1	Entangled
		2	Hawksbill Turtle	Alive-2	Entangled
		4	Leatherback Turtle	Alive-4	-
		1	Yellow-nosed Albatross*	Dead-1	-

# 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.