



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

31 February, 2010

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.

All Commonwealth managed fisheries have been assessed and accredited under the Act on the basis that the management plan or regime includes all reasonable steps to ensure that members of protected species are not adversely affected by the fishing operation. This means that as long as operators are fishing in accordance with the fishery management arrangements it is not an offence to interact with a protected species. It is, however, an offence not to report these interactions.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Managing Director of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) allows AFMA to report interactions with protected species in AFMA managed fisheries on behalf of fishers.

AFMA periodically provides summary reports on protected species interactions to DEWHA. The record of protected species interactions for AFMA managed fisheries as reported in fishery logbooks for the period **1 July to 30 September 2009** is given below. This report 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.

Threatened, Endangered, Protected (TEP) species management fact sheets available on the AFMA website provide information on how TEP species interactions are minimised including specific mitigation measures currently in place, thereby providing a useful context for the quarterly reports.

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

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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	All methods	NIL	-	-	-	-
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	1	Humpback Whale*	Alive-1	Collision	-
		1	Toothed Whale (unclassified)*	Alive-1	-	-
		1	Hawksbill Turtle	Alive-1	Hooked	-
		3	Leatherback Turtle	Alive-3	Hooked	-
		1	Turtle (unclassified)	Alive-1	Hooked	-
Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery	Longline	1	Southern Giant Petrel*	Dead-1	Collision	Bird found dead on the deck most likely as a result of a collision with the vessel in bad weather
	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Trawl & minor line	NIL	-	-	-	-
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	2	Flatback Turtle	Alive-2	Entangled	-
		6	Green Turtle	Alive-6	Entangled	-
		1	Pacific (olive) Ridley Turtle	Alive-1	Entangled	-
		1	Hawksbill Turtle	Alive-1	Entangled	-
		21	Turtle (unclassified)	Alive-21	Entangled	-
		3	Green sawfish	Alive-2 Dead-1	Entangled	-
		6	Narrow sawfish	Alive-5 Dead-1	Entangled	-

Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Common name	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#	Comments
		107	Sawfish (unclassified)	Alive-86 Dead-14 Injured-7	Entangled	-
		2	Seahorses & Pipefishes	Alive-1 Dead-1	Entangled	-
		3519	Seasnakes	Alive-3062 Dead-296 Injured-44 Unknown-117	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	1	Albatross (unclassified)	Unknown-1	-	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark	Trawl	32	Seals	Alive-10 Dead-22	Entangled	-
		1	Shy Albatross	Alive-1	Entangled	-

Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Common name	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#	Comments
Fishery- South East Trawl	Danish seine	2	Seals	Dead-2	Entangled	-
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Jig	NIL	-	-	-	-
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	143	Seasnakes	Alive-113 Unknown-30	Entangled	-
Torres Strait Fisheries (other)	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-	-
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	2	Leatherback Turtle	Alive-2	-	-
		1	Loggerhead Turtle	Alive-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