

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 October to 31 December 2007 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 these reports, please contact:

Justine Johnston
Environment & Research
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 October to 31 December 2007

Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Species	Life status	Interaction type#	Comments
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Harvester	NIL	-	-	-	-
Coral Sea Fishery	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-	-
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	4	Albatross	Alive -1 Dead - 3	Hooked	
		3	Wandering Albatross	Alive -1 Dead - 2	Hooked	-
		1	Green Turtle	Alive-1	Hooked	-
		1	Turtle (unspecified)	Alive-1	Hooked	-
Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery	Longline	NIL	-	-	-	-
	Trawl	1	Antarctic Fur Seal*	Dead -1	Entangled	Male seal found in codend. Length 2.6m and weighing approx. 200kg.
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Trawl & minor line	NIL	-	-	-	-
Northern Prawn Fishery	Trawl	1	Dolphin*	Alive -1	Entangled	Operator steamed slowly and the Dolphin swam uninjured straight out through the TED.
		5	Flatback Turtle	Alive -5	Entangled	-
		5	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	Alive -5	Entangled	-
		1	Turtles (unspecified)	Alive -1	Entangled	-
		1,713	Seahorses & Pipefishes	Alive -6 Dead -1330 Unknown -377	Entangled	-

Northern Prawn Fishery cont..	Trawl	3,284	Seasnake	Alive -2,181 Dead - 368 Injured -36 Unknown -699	Entangled	-
		8	Green Sawfish	Alive-7 Dead-1	Entangled	-
		1	Freshwater Sawfish	Alive - 1	Entangled	-
		53	Sawfish (unspecified)	Alive -39 Dead - 12 Unknown -2	Entangled	Includes Narrow and unidentified species
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	1	Seabird	Dead - 1	Entangled	-
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-Gillnet, Hook & Trap	Longline	1	Shearwater	unknown - 1	Hooked	
	Longline	1	Albatross	unknown - 1	Hooked	
	Gillnet	1	Dolphin*	Dead - 1	Netted	-
	Gillnet	2	Australian Sea lion	Dead - 2	Netted	One of the sea lions fell out of net at bouroller.
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery- Sout East Trawl	Trawl	1	Black Browed Albatross	Dead - 1	Entangled	-
		2	Albatross	Dead -2	Entangled	-
		1	Seabird	Dead-1	Entangled	-

		20	Seal	Alive -7 Dead -13	Entangled	-
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Jig	NIL	-	-	-	-
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	1	Pacific (Olive) Ridely Turtle	Alive -1	Entangled	-
		1	sawfish (unspecified)	Dead-1	Entangled	-
		1	Seahorses & Pipefishes	Alive -1	Entangled	-
		387	Seasnake	Alive -122 Dead-2 Unknown -263	Entangled	-
Torres Strait Fisheries (Other)	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-	-
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	1	Hawksbill Turtle	Alive -1	Hooked	-

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

* Interactions previously reported to DEW via triggered reporting