

## **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 April to 30 June 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 April to 30 June 2008

Fishery	Gear	Number of interactions	Common name	Life status (Alive/Dead/ Injured/ Unknown)	Interaction type#	Comments
<b>Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery</b>	Harvester	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Coral Sea Fishery</b>	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery</b>	Longline	1	Melon-headed whale*	Dead-1	Hooked	-
		1	Loggerhead turtle	Alive-1	Hooked	-
		2	Pacific (olive) Ridely turtle	Alive-1 Dead-1	Hooked	-
		1	Albatross (unclassified)	Dead-1	Hooked	-
<b>Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery</b>	Longline	1	Antarctic fur seal	Dead-1	Entangled	Seal entangled in mainline
	Trawl	1	Fairy prion	Dead-1	Collision	Bird flew into deckhand and died on impact
<b>Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery</b>	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)</b>	Trawl & minor line	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Northern Prawn Fishery</b>	Bottom Trawl	2	Flatback turtle	Alive-2	Entangled	-
		8	Green sawfish	Alive-3 Dead-5	Entangled	-
		44	Narrow sawfish	Alive-33 Dead-10 Unknown-1	Entangled	-

		122	Sawfish (unclassified)	Alive-79 Dead-35 Injured-4 Unknown-4	Entangled	-
		2	Seahorses & Pipefishes	Alive-1 Unknown-1	Entangled	-
		1340	Seasnakes	Alive-598 Dead-49 Injured-29 Unknown-664	Entangled	-
<b>Northwest Slope Fishery</b>	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Skipjack Tuna Fishery</b>	purse seine, longline & minor line	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Small Pelagic Fishery</b>	Purse seine & midwater trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery</b>	Purse seine	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-Great Australian Bight</b>	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery-Gillnet, Hook &amp; Trap</b>	Gillnet	2	Dolphin*	Dead - 2	Netted	Both caught during setting of gear. 1 dolphin fell out net at roller. A lot of seals around when setting

		6	Great White Shark*	Alive-6	Netted	All caught during haul. One 9ft female One 10ft female One 16ft female One 13ft male One 12ft male
		3	Seals	Dead-3	Netted	-
	Longline	1	Albatross (unclassified)	Alive-1	Hooked	Bird was hooked in wing while hauling. Hook was removed and bird returned to water.
		1	Shy Albatross	Dead-1	Hooked	Caught during haul
<b>Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery- South East Trawl</b>	Trawl	1	Shearwater	Dead-1	Entangled	-
		1	Swallow-tail	Alive-1		-
		1	Albatross (unclassified)	Alive-1	Entangled	-
		40	Seals	Alive-12 Dead-28	Entangled	-
<b>Southern Squid Jig Fishery</b>	Jig	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Torres Strait Prawn Fishery</b>	Trawl	1	Flatback turtle	Alive-1	Entangled	-
		1	Narrow sawfish	Dead-1	Entangled	-
		382	Seasnakes	Alive-112 Dead-4 Unknown-266	Entangled	-
<b>Torres Strait Fisheries (other)</b>	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery</b>	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
<b>Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery</b>	Longline	1	Leatherback turtle	Dead-1	-	-
		1	Turtle (unclassified)	Dead-1	-	-
		1	Toothed whale*	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**

**Note:**

**The Antarctic fisheries have 100% observer coverage**