

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 EPBC 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 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 reports, 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 October to 31 December 2008

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	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-	-
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	1	Loggerhead turtle	Alive-1	Hooked	Adult female hooked in flipper. Crew cut the hook close to turtle. It was released alive, vigorous and angry.
		1	Leatherback turtle	Alive-1	Hooked	Adult male approx. 1m in length. Tangled in gear. Gear was cut off and turtle was released alive & vigorous
Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery	Longline	NIL	-	-	-	-
	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Longline	NIL	-	-	-	-
	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Fishery (Offshore)	Trawl & minor line	NIL	-	-	-	-
Northern Prawn Fishery	Bottom Trawl	4	Turtle (unclassified)	Alive-4	Entangled	-
		37	Narrow sawfish	Alive-24 Dead-9 Injured-3 Unknown-1	Entangled	-
		54	Sawfish (unclassified)	Alive-38 Dead-16	Entangled	-
		4	Seahorses &	Unknown-4	Entangled	-

			Pipefishes			
		1942	Seasnakes	Alive-1754 Dead-133 Injured-3 Unknown-52	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 Scalegfish and Shark Fishery-Great Australian Bight	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Southern and Eastern Scalegfish and Shark Fishery-Gillnet, Hook & Trap	Gillnet	NIL	-	-	-	-
	Longline	NIL	-	-	-	-
Southern and Eastern Scalegfish and Shark Fishery-South East Trawl	Trawl	1	Albatross (unspecified)	Dead-1	Entangled	Bird got entangled in the warp wire
		1	Great white shark*	Alive-1	Entangled	Shark was lowered over the side alive and swam off.
		20	Seals	Alive-6 Dead-14	Entangled	-
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Jig	NIL	-	-	-	-

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Trawl	243	Seasnakes	Alive-131 Dead-5 Injured-1 Unknown-106	Entangled	-
Torres Strait Fisheries (other)	Multiple methods	NIL	-	-	-	-
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Trawl	NIL	-	-	-	-
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Longline	1	Loggerhead turtle	Alive-1	Hooked	Adult female hooked in flipper. Crew cut the line close to turtle. It was released alive, vigorous and angry.
		1	Leatherback turtle	Alive-1	Entangled	Line entangled around flipper. Turtle cut free and swam away alive & vigorous

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 or other reporting arrangements

Note:

The Antarctic fisheries have 100% observer coverage