

Environmental, social and economic impacts of large-capacity fishing vessels commonly known as 'Super trawlers' operating in Australia's marine jurisdiction

AFMA Questions on Notice

November 2016

Question: AFMA01

Senator URQUHART asked: For the 2015-16 season, what was the *Geelong Star's* actual catch for each of the quota species?

Answer:

Catches by vessel are not generally disclosed by AFMA unless required by law or to guide a specific fisheries management decision. However, the total catch of quota species in the 2015-16 fishing season for the Small Pelagic Fishery is available on AFMA's website at: <http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/catchwatch-reports/>.

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AFMA Questions on Notice

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Question: AFMA02

Senator URQUHART asked: In your November 2015 submission, there was an attachment that was a table comparing interactions between threatened, endangered or protected species and vessels of different lengths. The table covered the period from July 2010 to June 2015, which was only three months of the *Geelong Star's* operation. Do you have an updated table?

Answer:

The updated table is below.

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Comparison of Interactions with Threatened Endangered and Protected (TEP) species by vessels of different lengths 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2016 for all Commonwealth fisheries					
Vessel length category	Total number of fishing days (Number of unique vessels that went fishing during the period)	Total number of interactions (all categories including alive, dead, injured, unknown)	Interactions per 1000 fishing days (all categories including alive, dead, injured, unknown)	Total number of mortalities (includes dead, injured, unknown)	Mortalities per 1000 fishing days (includes dead, injured, unknown)
0 to 20 metres	95,416 (298 vessels)	16,546 (127 vessels)	173.4	8,587	90.0
20 to 40 metres	92,772 (152 vessels)	55,449 (117 vessels)	597.7	23,029	248.2
40 to 60 metres	2,348 (10 vessels)	82 (6 vessels)	34.9	31	13.2
60 to 80 metres	1,051 (5 vessels)	69 (4 vessels)	65.7	57	54.2
80 to 100 metres	1,145 (3 vessels)	102 (3 vessels)	89.1	85	74.2
Totals	192,732	72,248	374.9	31,789	164.9

- Table includes data from all fisheries including Heard Island and Macquarie Island Fisheries
- Data for boats of unknown length was excluded
- All sawfishes and silky sharks are now protected and have been included in data from 2015/16 for this table

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Question: AFMA03

Senator URQUHART asked: What conservation category in part 13 of the EPBC Act includes whale sharks?

Answer:

Under Part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, whale sharks are listed as both a vulnerable species and a migratory marine species.

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Question: AFMA04

Senator URQUHART asked: Do you know how long it was out of the water for?

Answer:

The whale shark was out of the water for an estimated 3 minutes and 35 seconds. This information was made available on 24 February 2016 on AFMA's website at:
<http://www.afma.gov.au/whale-shark-interaction-video-footage-consistent-observer-report/>.

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Question: AFMA05

Senator URQUHART asked: How many media statements regarding the whale shark did AFMA release?

Answer:

In addition to the numerous enquiries that AFMA responded to when the interaction first occurred, statements published on AFMA's website regarding the *Geelong Star's* interaction with the whale shark are as follows:

1. 19 Feb16 - <http://www.afma.gov.au/whale-shark-interaction-geelong-star/>.
2. 24 Feb16 - <http://www.afma.gov.au/whale-shark-interaction-video-footage-consistent-observer-report/>.
3. 17 Mar16 - <http://www.afma.gov.au/whale-shark-interaction-observer-report/>.
4. 30 Jun16 - <http://www.afma.gov.au/response-images-released-stop-trawler-alliance/>.

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November 2016

Question: AFMA06

The CHAIR asked: I think the techies would find a way around that pretty simply. I will ask you a series of questions around Seafish Tasmania. I am happy if you want to take this information on notice, because I think you do have it, given what you have said—the total marine mammal bycatch for Seafish Tasmania for 2015-16?

Dr Findlay: It is available on our website. If I give Dr Rayns 10 seconds he might be able to find it in the materials.

CHAIR: Thanks, Dr Rayns. I appreciate that. Are you are able to inform the committee what proportions of those happened at night?

Dr Rayns: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

AFMA does not report protected species interactions on a boat by boat basis but by fishery. The total protected species interactions in the Small Pelagic Fishery for the 2015-16 fishing season was 84 animals. Of these interactions, 15.4 per cent occurred at night (logbook reported time of 8pm to 8am).