

Loggerhead Turtle

Caretta caretta

Average weight/size: Adults 100kg / 1-1.5m in length; Hatchlings 30g / 4cm in length.

Diet: Jellyfish, shellfish, and sea urchins.

Appearance: Heart-shaped, red-brown to brown carapace (shell) with 5 pairs of costal scales. Large, solid head and neck.

Where am I found (habitat): Adults feed in coastal waters, bays and estuaries in WA, NT, QLD & NSW, and nest on subtropical beaches. Juveniles drift on the open ocean.

Population numbers: Nationally endangered, with numbers in QLD declining.

Other key info: In Australia, mating and breeding occurs during the summer months.



DID YOU KNOW?

INTERESTING FACT # 1

Marine turtles dig a nest and egg chamber in the sand dunes. After laying the eggs, the female has no further contact with the offspring.

INTERESTING FACT # 2

Hatchlings dig themselves out of the nest, and then run across the beach to the sea.

INTERESTING FACT # 3

Turtles return to the same beach where they were born to lay their own eggs.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THIS SPECIES SURVIVE?

Protect important habitat, such as nesting and foraging areas.

Nesting turtles are at particular risk of disturbance. Don't touch or disturb nesting females.

Take care when driving on a turtle nesting beach.

Reduce boat speed to allow turtles to dive away from your boat.

Reduce marine debris and its impact on marine turtles.

Manmade waste such as discarded nets and plastic rubbish are killing turtles.

Support organisations that are removing these items from our oceans.

Join local cleanup programs. Make sure your rubbish does not find its way to our oceans.

Compiled by Imelda Jennings

PO BOX 157, YAMBA NSW 2464



WWW.WILDLIFESOS.ORG.AU