

SPECIES MANAGEMENT PROFILE

Caretta caretta Loggerhead Turtle

Group: Chordata (vertebrates), Reptilia (reptiles), Testudines (Turtles), Cheloniidae

Status: *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995:* **endangered**
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999: **Endangered**

Endemic: Found in Tasmania and elsewhere

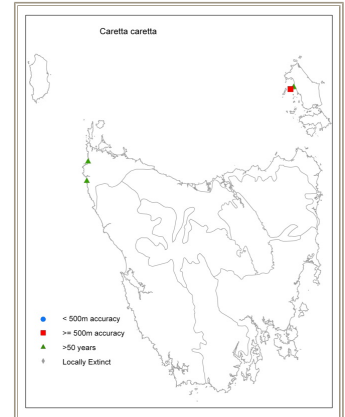
Status:

Loggerhead turtles have large ranges in the Indian and Pacific oceans and are only occasional visitors to Tasmanian waters. They do not breed here.

Loggerhead turtles grow to an average of one metre in length and reach sexual maturity around 30 years of age. Their shells are red-brown to brown in colour. They occur world-wide, inhabiting tropical and temperate waters such as coral reefs, bays and estuaries. They migrate from their feeding grounds in Indonesia, the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Queensland to nest along eastern and western Australian coastlines. Loggerhead turtles feed mostly on benthic gastropods and bivalve molluscs, crabs and echinoderms but will also eat jellyfish and some other microplankton. They may only breed every five to six years. There is a worldwide decline in marine turtle numbers attributed to harvesting for food and the trade in turtle shells. Threats in Australian waters are from disturbance to breeding areas, ingestion of plastics and entanglement in ropes and nets.

Source; Bryant, S. L. and Jackson, J. (1999). *Tasmania's Threatened Fauna Handbook*. Threatened Species Unit, Parks and Wildlife Service, Hobart.

A complete species management profile is not currently available for this species. Check for further information on this page and any relevant Activity Advice.



Key Points

- **Important:** Is this species in your area? Do you need a permit? Ensure you've covered all the issues by checking the Planning Ahead page.
- **Important:** Different threatened species may have different requirements. For any activity you are considering, read the Activity Advice pages for background information and important advice about managing around the needs of multiple threatened species.

Further information

Check also for listing statement or notesheet pdf above (below the species image).

Recovery Plan

Cite as: Threatened Species Section (2023). *Loggerhead Turtle (Caretta caretta): Species Management Profile for Tasmania's Threatened Species Link*. <https://www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au/Pages/Loggerhead-Turtle.aspx> Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. Accessed on 6/12/2023.

Contact details: Threatened Species Section, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (1300 368 550).

Permit: A permit is required under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* to 'take' (which includes kill, injure, catch, damage, destroy and collect), keep, trade in or process any specimen or products of a listed species. Additional permits may also be required under other Acts or regulations to take, disturb or interfere with any form of wildlife or its products, (e.g. dens, nests, bones). This may also depend on the tenure of the land and other agreements relating to its management.