



Mapping flatback foraging areas in the Kimberley

Status Underway

Aims This project will identify and characterise key foraging habitats used by sea turtles (predominantly flatback turtles) in the offshore water (30-100 m depths of the Kimberley coast collect material for stable isotope analyses to provide insight into diet.

Relevance Post-nesting satellite tracking studies of sea turtles over multiple years have revealed foraging “hotspots” or preferred habitat by flatback turtles. These areas appear to be stable inter-annually and are used by the turtles from different rookeries and also used by other species such as Olive Ridley and loggerhead turtles.

This study will use existing tracking data from various sources to identify foraging hotspots and to maximise resources from WAMSI Kimberley Node Benthic Project to extend benthic surveys into these areas. This will be the first dedicated study of flatback turtle foraging habitat.

NWSFTCP Code OA R11

Collaborators AIMS, CSIRO, DBCA