Concept Plan SP 2017-059

Aerial survey of flatback turtle mating areas

Marine Science

Project Core Team

Supervising Scientist	Sabrina Fossette-Halot
Data Custodian	Sabrina Fossette-Halot
Site Custodian	

Project status as of Feb. 4, 2020, 9:52 a.m.

New project, pending concept plan approval

Document endorsements and approvals as of Feb. 4, 2020, 9:52 a.m.

Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	required

Aerial survey of flatback turtle mating areas

Biodiversity and Conservation Science Program

Marine Science

Departmental Service

None

Aims

The aim of this project is to identify and map mating areas for North West Shelf flatback turtles using aerial survey and aerial imagery and characterise these mating and inter-nesting habitats.

Expected outcome

The expected outcomes of this projects are:

- The first documented records (i.e. aerial images with GPS coordinates) of flatback turtle mating pairs.
- Maps of one or several mating areas.
- Knowledge of the environmental characteristics of these mating areas

These outcomes will inform development of the North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program's next Strategic Conservation Plan in addition to the National Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia and the IUCN database.

Strategic context

Strategic context: This project fulfils objectives NdS OA R3 and NdS OA R11 of the North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program Strategic Conservation Plan 2014-2021.

Management implications: By starting to map courtship and mating areas for flatback turtles on the North West Shelf, we will be able to identify critical habitats for this species. Being able to define the critical habitat of a threatened species is will assist to inform if an industry/project has a significant impact on a species (Significant Impact Guidelines - EPBC Act 1999). This will assist meeting the second objective of the NWSFTCP, which is to provide sufficient data to allow the Advisory Committee to assess whether the Gorgon project is having a "significant" impact on the North West Shelf flatback turtle population.

Expected collaborations

This project will not require any external collaborations

Proposed period of the project

Oct. 15, 2017 – None

Staff time allocation

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientist	0.02		0.02
Technical			
Volunteer	0.02	0.02	
Collaborator			

Indicative operating budget

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DPaW)			
External Funding	47,443		