



The health status of marine turtles in northern and western Australia

Aims This project will investigate the health and disease status of marine turtle species found in Western Australian waters focusing on flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*). There are two major components to this research project, each with several main hypotheses.

1. Establishing a health and disease baseline for turtle species in Western Australia (WA), including establishing baseline blood chemistry reference ranges.
2. Assessing the causes of morbidity and mortality of marine turtles in Western Australia, including assessing Spirorchiid infection as a significant cause of mortality for all marine turtle species in WA.

Relevance In Western Australia there have been no scientific studies to assess causes of mortality and disease in for marine turtle species at a regional scale. The results from these studies provide essential information on pressures impact individual stocks in the regional and provide avenues for direct management action.

NWSFTCP Code OA R 13

Partners DBCA, Murdoch University