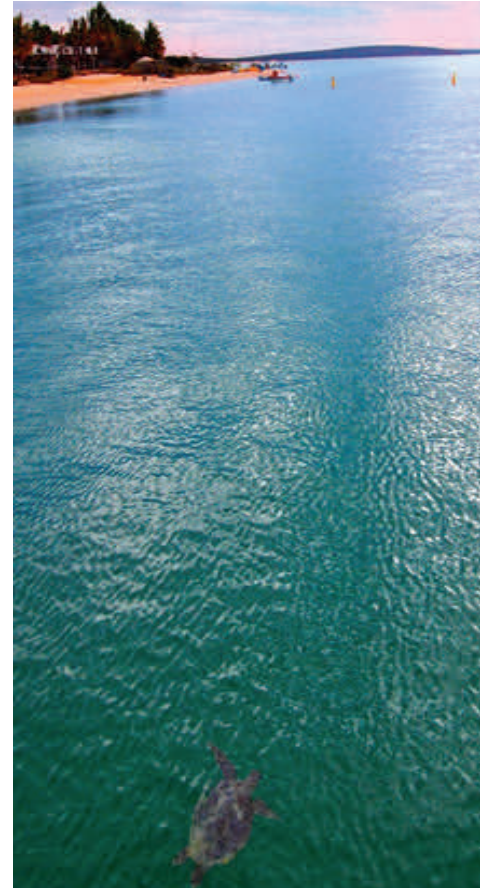


# Green turtle

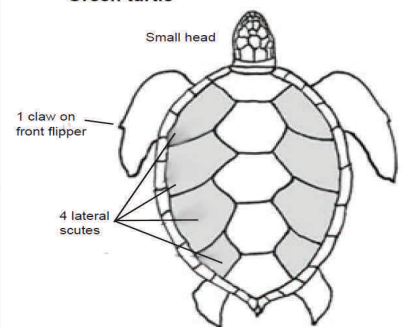
*Chelonia mydas*

# Fact sheet

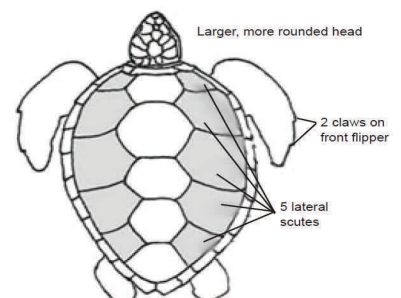
## SHARK BAY World Heritage



Green turtle



Loggerhead turtle



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



**Description**



The green turtle is named for the colour of its fat, not its shell.

The smooth, high-domed shell of this turtle is mottled olive green, brown and black. The main features distinguishing this turtle from other marine turtles are a single pair of scales in front of the eyes, a serrated bottom jaw and the number of lateral scutes making up its carapace.

<b>Length</b> Up to 1.5m	<b>Weight</b> 130-180kg	<b>Lifespan</b> 80 years
-----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------

**Diet and habitat**



Green turtles live in tropical and subtropical seas around coral and rocky reefs and seagrass meadows. They only leave the water briefly to nest.

Adults graze on seagrass and seaweed while young also eat jellyfish.

**Breeding**



Image: Janel Crite

Breeding occurs about once every six years. Females nest from late October to February in the area they hatched. Like other marine turtle species, females mate with several males and store the sperm for use later in the season when they can lay up to five clutches. Hatchlings weighing about 25 grams emerge between December and May.

<b>Maturity</b> 33 years	<b>No. eggs</b> 115	<b>Incubation</b> 50-70 days
-----------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------------

**Distribution**



With an enormous amount of seagrass, the Shark Bay World Heritage Area is popular with green turtles.

Like other species, they use a special 'magnetic compass' in their brain to find their home beach, which might be hundreds of kilometres away.

**Status**

**Vulnerable**

EX CE EN **VU** CD OS

Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna)  
Notice 2015

Human disturbance to feeding and nesting areas, entanglement in fishing gear, choking on rubbish, dredging, hunting and boat strikes all threaten green turtles.