

Protected Marine Species Identification Guide



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Helping Australia*

An Australian Government Initiative

Commonwealth Protected Marine Species Identification Guide

All the species shown in this booklet are protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, trade, keep, or move any protected species in a Commonwealth area without a permit.

The Commonwealth area includes marine areas beyond the coastal waters of each State and the Northern Territory and includes all of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The EEZ generally extends to 200 nautical miles (approximately 350 kilometres) from the coast. The Commonwealth area extends further in some areas to cover the continental shelf and continental slope. It also includes the waters in the EEZ around the Australian Antarctic Territory and Australia's External Territories, such as Norfolk, Christmas, Heard and Macdonald Islands.

It is not an offence to kill, injure, trade, keep, or move a protected species in a Commonwealth area if you do so as a result of an unavoidable accident, but you are legally required to report it to the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) within seven days or you could face a fine.



To report an accidental interaction with, or if you witness someone intentionally interfering with, a protected species in a Commonwealth area:

Call 1800 803 772, or

Email epbcwild@deh.gov.au, or

Write to The Secretary
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

When reporting interactions please include if possible:

- time and date
- species name
- number of animals
- location (latitude and longitude coordinates if possible)
- incident type (eg. dead catch, live catch and release, collision, sighting etc)
- gear or bait type used (if catch)

For accidental interactions that occur as part of normal fishing you are requested to report these to the regulating Fisheries Agency such as the Australian Fisheries Management Authority or your State Fisheries Agency (eg. NSW Fisheries). In most instances this should be done through normal reporting mechanisms such as logbooks or catch documentation schemes.

If you are in any doubt – report it.

For more information on notification of interactions with a protected species visit

www.deh.gov.au/epbc/permits/species/notifications/index.html

For more information on the EPBC Act visit

www.deh.gov.au/epbc/index.html

Our marine life can die from getting tangled, or consuming discarded fishing gear and bait straps. Please don't throw fishing gear and bait straps overboard.

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Common Name: **Loggerhead Turtle**

Scientific Name: *Caretta caretta*

Distribution: QLD, NT, WA, NSW

Status: **Endangered**

Juvenile

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NB: distinct peaks along shell midline

Adult

© QLD EPA



Common Name: **Green Turtle**
Scientific Name: *Chelonia mydas*
Distribution: QLD, NT, WA, NSW
Status: **Vulnerable**

Juvenile



© Duncan Limpus

Adult



© QLD EPA

Common Name: **Leatherback Turtle**
Scientific Name: *Dermochelys coriacea*
Distribution: QLD, NT, WA, NSW
Status: **Vulnerable**

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NB: five distinct ridges on shell

Common Name: **Olive Ridley Turtle**
Scientific Name: *Lepidochelys olivacea*
Distribution: QLD, NT, WA
Status: **Endangered**

© QLD EPA

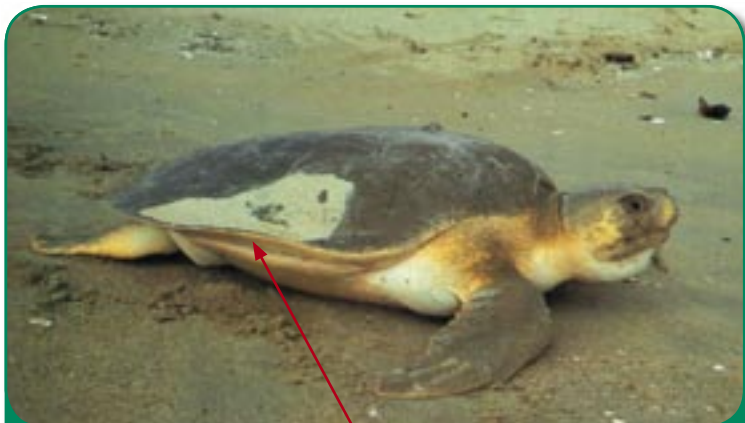


Common Name: **Hawkesbill Turtle**
Scientific Name: *Eretmochelys imbricata*
Distribution: QLD, NT, WA
Status: **Vulnerable**



© QLD EPA

Common Name: **Flatback Turtle**
Scientific Name: *Natator depressus*
Distribution: QLD, NT, WA
Status: **Vulnerable**



© QLD EPA

NB: upturned edges

Hawkesbill Turtle
Flatback Turtle

Common Name: **Grey Nurse Shark**
Scientific Name: *Charcarius taurus*
Distribution: NSW, QLD, NT, WA, SA, VIC
East Coast Popn: **Critically Endangered**
West Coast Popn: **Vulnerable**

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Common Name: **Great White Shark**
Scientific Name: *Charcaradon carcharias*
Distribution: All States
Status: **Vulnerable**

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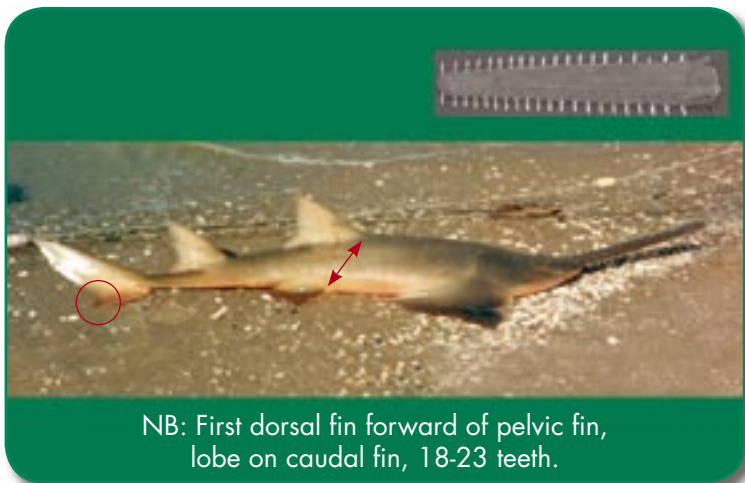


Common Name: **Whale Shark**
Scientific Name: *Rhincodon typus*
Distribution: WA, QLD, NT, NSW, VIC, SA
Status: **Vulnerable**



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Common Name: **Freshwater Sawfish**
Scientific Name: *Pristis microdon*
Distribution: QLD, NT, WA
Status: **Vulnerable**



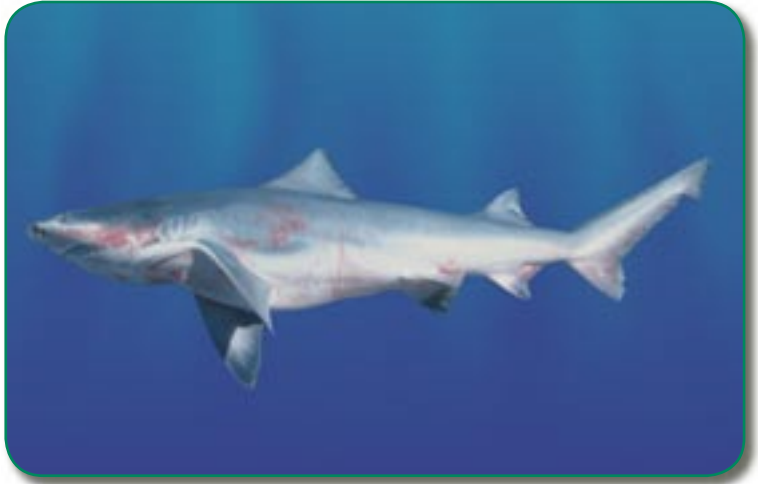
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NB: First dorsal fin forward of pelvic fin, lobe on caudal fin, 18-23 teeth.

Spear-tooth Shark Northern Rivers Shark

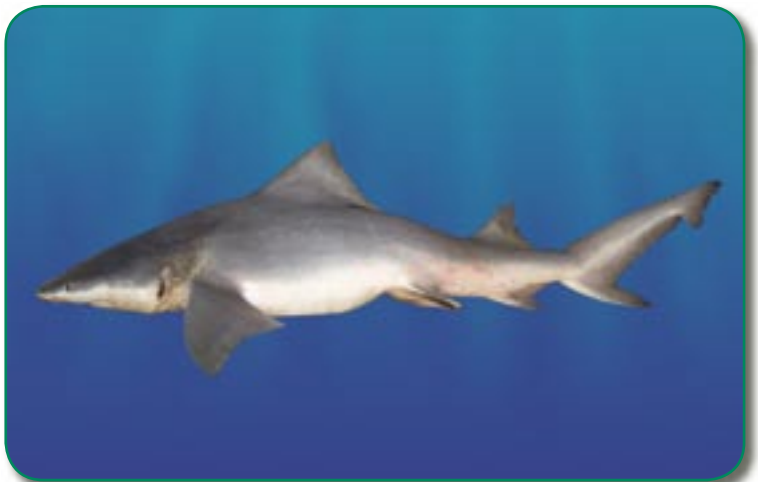
Common Name: **Spear-tooth Shark**
Scientific Name: *Glyphis sp. A*
Distribution: QLD, NT
Status: **Critically Endangered**

© Geoff McPherson



Common Name: **Northern Rivers Shark**
Scientific Name: *Glyphis sp. C*
Distribution: NT, WA
Status: **Endangered**

© Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
Photo Rick Bowden



All Handfish



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NB: distinct "arm like" pectoral fins

Common Name: **Spotted Handfish**

Scientific Name: *Brachionichthys hirsutus*

Distribution: TAS

Status: **Endangered**

Common Name: **Ziebell's Handfish**

Scientific Name: *Sympterichthys* sp.

Distribution: TAS

Status: **Vulnerable**

Common Name: **Waterfall Bay Handfish**

Scientific Name: *Sympterichthys* sp.

Distribution: TAS

Status: **Vulnerable**

Common Name: **Red Handfish**

Scientific Name: *Brachionichthys politus*

Distribution: TAS

Status: **Vulnerable**

All Seals and Sea Lions

Distribution: WA, SA, TAS, VIC, NSW, QLD

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- Australian Sea Lions – Males to 350kg*
- Australian Fur Seals – Males to 300kg*
- New Zealand Fur Seals – Males to 200kg*
- Elephant Seal – Males to 3000kg*
- Sub-Antarctic Fur Seal – Males to 200kg*

All Cetaceans (Whales and Dolphins)

Distribution: All States



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**All Cetaceans
(Whales and Dolphins)**

Common Name: **Dugong**
Scientific Name: *Dugong dugon*
Distribution: NSW, QLD, NT, WA

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All Seasnakes

Distribution: NSW, QLD, WA, NT

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All Pipefish

Distribution: All States



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All Seahorses and Seadragons

Distribution: All States



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All Pipefish
All Seahorses and Seadragons

All Seabirds

Distribution: All States

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Common Name: **Saltwater Crocodile**

Scientific Name: *Crocodylus porosus*

Distribution: QLD, NT, WA

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