



South Pacific

Sea Turtle C.A.R.E.

CONSERVATION, AWARENESS, RESEARCH, EDUCATION

Photos courtesy of Iain Anderson and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage



Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)



Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)



Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)



Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)



Olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)



IDENTIFICATION KEY

Carapace shell with
- 5 distinct ridges
- no large scales



Leatherback turtle
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Carapace with
- no continuous ridges
- large scales

5 pair (rarely 6) costal scales
- carapace longer than wide
- colour red-brown to brown
- no pores in scales of bridge



Loggerhead turtle
(*Caretta caretta*)

6 pair or more costal scales
- carapace approximately circular
- colour grey green
- pores in scales of bridge



Olive ridley turtle
(*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

4 pair costal scales



1 pair prefrontal scales
- no thick overlapping carapace scales



- carapace high domed
- no preocular scales
- colour light to dark green/brown
with dark mottling



Green turtle
(*Chelonia mydas*)

2 pair prefrontal scales
- thick overlapping carapace scales



Hawksbill turtle
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)