

The Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Western Australian Waters

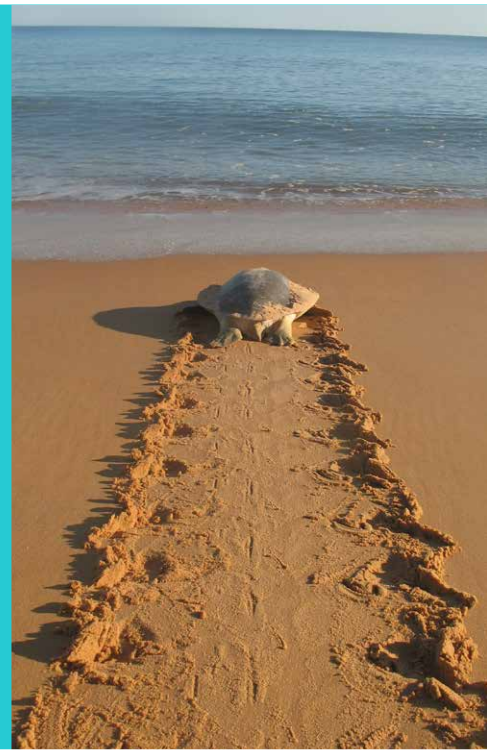
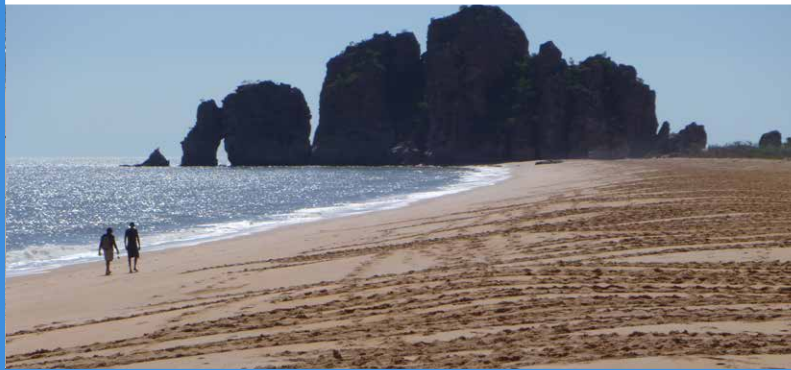
Robert I. T. Prince

Department of Parks and Wildlife, Science and Conservation Division,
Locked Bag 104, Bentley DC, WA 6983
Presenter - contact: bob.prince@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Leatherback turtles are part of the coastal marine fauna of Western Australia, although still not having any known nesting presence. The earliest record I found is *c.* 1926 from Shark Bay/Carnarvon via a photo collection, but a comprehensive search for other early records has not been made. The majority of the 150 records I now have date from mid-1970 on to the present (June 2014), and include two young of the year juveniles from unknown source rookeries. The other records

appear to document the foraging presence of predominantly large juvenile to sub-adult turtles. I will discuss the sources of those records in relation to community engagement and known fishery interactions in building this data-set, the biases inherent within the data to hand, and how newer information is contributing to a better focus on conservation and management of this SE Indian Ocean population.

Proceedings of the
Second Australian and Second Western Australian
Marine Turtle Symposia
Perth 25-27 August 2014



Department of
Parks and Wildlife

