

High Density Flatback Turtle Nesting at a Winter Rookery

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Surveys to the flatback turtle, *Natator depressus*, rookery at Cape Domett, located in the north-east Kimberley, were undertaken during 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010. Track counts were used to estimate annual abundance and confirmed Cape Domett as a significant flatback turtle rookery with an estimated 1900–3250 turtles nesting each year. Satellite transmitters were attached to five flatback turtles which revealed migration pathways to inshore

waters of the Northern Territory and offshore to the Timor and Arafura Seas. Between nesting activity, flatback turtles moved around the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf adjacent to Cape Domett. Nesting success and hatching (incubation) success was assessed and predation of eggs, hatchling and adult turtles noted. Collaborating scientists, DEC staff, volunteers, indigenous Rangers and Traditional Owners participated in field trips.