

## Turtle Profiles

### Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

**Stock:** Part of the olive ridley—north-western Cape York (O-nwCY) stock

**Status:** Australia Endangered, Queensland Endangered

**Population Trend:** Likely to be in decline (3)

**Preferred habitat:** shallow soft-bottomed habitats of protected tropical and subtropical waters

**Diet:** Carnivorous (mostly shellfish and small crabs)

**Important nesting sites:** Low density nesting on western Cape York Peninsula between Weipa and Bamaga

**Mating:** February—September

**Nesting:** March—October (peak: August)



Image: Olive Ridley turtle adult. Photo: Colin Limpus.

### Physical characteristics:

#### Olive ridley Adult

- 6 pairs or more of large scales on either side (costal scales) of the carapace
- Carapace circular
- Colour, grey green
- Adult carapace approximately 0.7 metres

#### Olive ridley Hatchling

- Colour, black with green plastron
- Carapace 4-5 cm long



Image: Olive Ridley turtle hatchling. Photo: Colin Limpus.