

# **Barrow Island Marine Notice**

**- Turtle Season**

**- Seabird Groundings: Wedge-tailed Shearwaters**



# Barrow Island Turtle Season

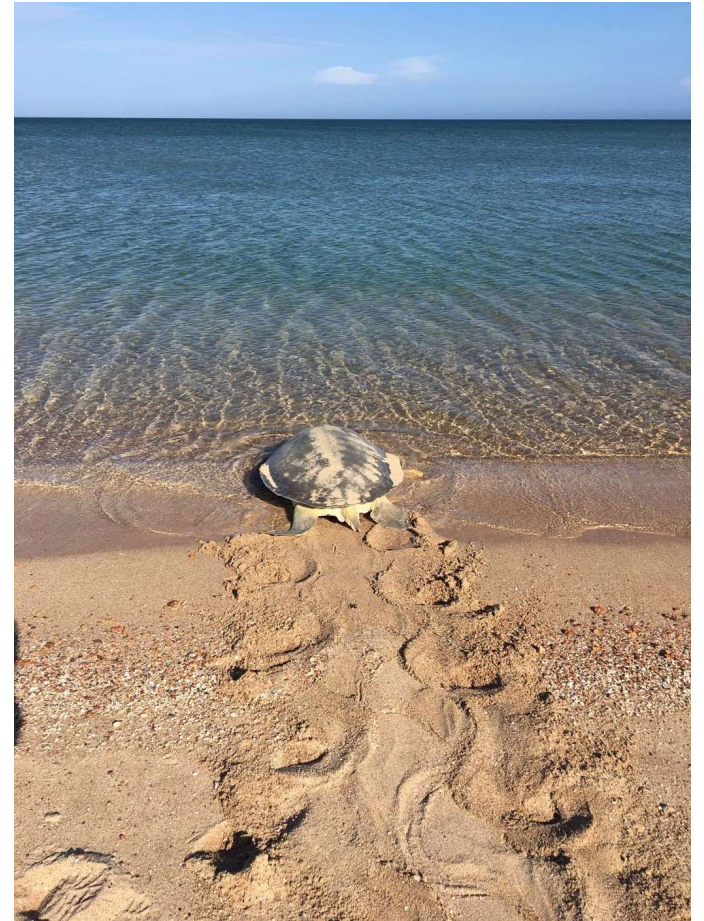
## October – April

Marine turtles are present in Barrow Island Port waters all year round, however Flatback Turtle numbers greatly increase from:

- October to January during the breeding / nesting season, and;
- February to April during the turtle hatchling season

All vessels within Barrow Island Port are required to minimise lighting and follow vessel procedures to avoid interactions with marine turtles throughout the year.

Increased diligence is required during the turtle season.



# Barrow Island Turtle Season

## Lighting management

Marine turtles are highly sensitive to the presence of artificial light.

- Female turtles may be deterred from leaving the water to nest on east coast beaches if the beach is light.
- Turtle hatchlings are attracted to, and become trapped in light spill over water, exposing them to increased predation.

In accordance with the **Barrow Island – Port Information Manual**, all vessels entering the Port Area must make best endeavours to reduce light spill and direct overboard lighting to the absolute safe minimum level at all times. This includes, where practicable:

- Removal / switching-off unnecessary task lights when not required
- Shielding, directional and downward facing lights to prevent light halo
- Blinds / shutters on windows and portholes to manage light spill from cabins and internal work areas
- Directing lights on to work areas and away from beaches and water
- Checking that lights are the lowest wattage (for safe operations) and yellow to red spectrum where fitted.



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## Vessel speeds

Vessel movements, including any imposed speed restrictions, are under the control of Barrow Island Port.

- Vessels operating within the Port during Turtle season are required to maintain a safe manoeuvrable speed (exemptions: Emergency or directed) to ensure that the Vessel Master maintains the ability to avoid interactions with marine fauna.
- Speed restrictions may apply to certain areas of the Port. Such restrictions will be communicated via announcement on VHF Ch10 by the Barrow Island Marine Communications Officer.
- Any interactions with marine turtles and other marine fauna (i.e. vessel strikes, entanglement, sightings of injured or dead fauna) shall be reported to the Port.



### **References:**

- *Barrow Island Port Information Manual GOR-COP-0716*
- *Gorgon Gas Development and Jansz Feed Gas Pipeline Long-Term Marine Turtle Management Plan GOR-COP-01728*
- *Gorgon Operations Lighting Guideline – LNG Ships and Condensate Vessels GOR-COP-01821*



## Seabird Groundings - Wedge-tailed Shearwaters

- Wedge-tailed Shearwaters are a protected seabird species listed as Migratory and Marine under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- Adult birds typically arrive to their nesting sites near Barrow Island from August to October to re-form breeding pairs and prepare burrows.
- Adult birds will forage around Barrow Island from August to March
- Fledglings typical 'fledge' (leave the nest burrows) in April.
- Both adult birds and fledglings look similar. Timing of arrival is one indicator, fledglings may also still have some down feathers.



Adult Shearwater in nesting burrow



# Seabird Groundings - Wedge-tailed Shearwaters

- Shearwater groundings occur when these birds become disoriented by artificial lighting and collide with structures such as buildings and vessels.
- Shearwaters are often found on LNG, Condensate and other vessels docking at the Gorgon Marine Terminal.
- Shearwaters should be left in place, not disturbed and allowed to attempt to fly away without obstruction. This may take a number of hours or days.
- Quarantine Inspectors will take note of the number of Shearwaters on each vessel for formal reporting by Chevron.
- Please ensure any birds encountered on vessels are protected from harm.



Fledgling Shearwater on deck



Shearwater hiding on deck