Queensland east coast freshwater turtle identification guide for the Queensland Eel Fishery
This guide has been developed for use by commercial fishers operating in the Queensland Eel Fishery for reporting in the species of conservation interest (SOCI) logbook. This is not a comprehensive freshwater turtle guide for Queensland and contains only those freshwater turtle species which inhabit the area covered by the Queensland Eel Fishery. Information contained in this guide was modified by Fisheries Queensland with permission from the Department of Environment and Resource Management.
Scutes (plates) on carapace (top)

- Nuchal
- Marginal
- Costal

No nuchal
Scutes on plastron (bottom)

gular

intergular

pectoral

suture = the connection between two scutes
Turtles of Cape York to Port Douglas

Forelimbs with 5 claws.
Intergular same width or wider than gular.

**Saw-shelled turtle**
(*Wollumbinia latisternum*)
SOCI code: ST

Forelimbs with 4 claws.
Intergular (a) clearly longer than suture between pectorals (b).

**Cann’s turtle**
(*Chelodina canni*)
SOCI code: CT

Nuchal usually absent.
Neck with pointed spikes.
Intergular same width or wider than gular.

**Krefft’s River turtle**
(*Emydura macquarii krefftii*)
SOCI code: KRT

Stripes along neck and legs.

**Red-eared slider turtle**
(*Trachemys spp.*)
Declared pest

No stripes on legs or neck.

Nuchal usually present.
No pointed spikes on neck.
Smooth, flat scales behind eye.

**Red-eared slider turtle**
(*Trachemys spp.*)
Declared pest
Nuchal usually absent.
Raised and rounded bumps/spikes behind eye.
Krefft’s River turtle
(Emydura macquarii krefftii)
SOCI code: KRT

Intergular (a) clearly longer than suture between pectorals (b).
Forelimbs with 4 claws.

Cann’s turtle
(Chelodina canni)
SOCI code: CT

Intergular narrow than gular.
Nuchal usually absent.
Raised and rounded bumps/spikes behind eye.
Saw-shelled turtle
(Wollumbinia latisternum)
SOCI code: ST

Intergular narrower than gular.
Nuchal usually present.
Smooth, flat scales behind eye.
No pointed spikes on neck.
Irwin’s turtle
(Elseya irwini)
SOCI code: IT

Intergular same width or wider than gular.
Neck with pointed spikes.

Stripes along neck and legs.
Red-eared slider turtle
(Trachemys spp.)
Declared pest

No stripes on legs or neck.

Forelimbs with 5 claws.
Forelimbs with 4 claws.

Forelimbs with 5 claws.

Stripes along neck and legs.

**Red-eared slider turtle**  
(*Trachemys* spp.)  
Declared pest

Intergular (a) clearly longer than suture between pectorals (b).

**Eastern snake-necked turtle**  
(*Chelodina longicollis*)  
SOCI code: EST

Intergular length (a) similar to length of suture between pectorals (b).

**Broad-shelled river turtle**  
(*Chelodina expansa*)  
SOCI code: BSRT

2nd and 3rd costal match up with 7th marginal. 3rd and 4th costal match up with 9th marginal.

2nd and 3rd costal match up with 6th marginal. 3rd and 4th costal match up with 8th marginal.

**Fitzroy River turtle**  
(*Rheodytes leukops*)  
SOCI code: FRT

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Nuchal usually absent. Nuchal usually present.

2nd and 3rd costal match up with 7th marginal. 3rd and 4th costal match up with 9th marginal.

Intergular narrower than gular.
Neck with pointed spikes.
**Saw-shelled turtle**  
(*Wollumbinia latisternum*)  
SOCI code: ST

Intergular narrower than gular.
Neck with rounded bumps.
**White-throated snapping turtle**  
(*Elseya albagula*)  
SOCI code: WST

Smooth, flat scales behind eye.  
No pointed spikes on neck.  
**Krefft’s River turtle**  
(*Emydura macquarii krefftii*)  
SOCI code: KRT

Small raised scales behind eye.  
Neck with pointed spikes.  
**Mary River turtle**  
(*Elusor macrurus*)  
SOCI code: MRT

Mary River catchment only
Forelimbs with 5 claws.

Nuchal usually present.
No pointed spikes on neck.
Smooth, flat scales behind eye.

Macquarie River Turtle
(Emydura macquarii macquarii)
SOCI Code: MQRT

Forelimbs with 4 claws.

Nuchal usually absent.
Neck with pointed spikes.
Intergular same width or wider than gular

Red-eared slider turtle
(Trachemys spp.)
Declared pest

Stripes along neck and legs.

Intergular (a) clearly longer than suture between pectorals (b).

Eastern snake-necked turtle
(Chelodina longicollis)
SOCI code: EST

Intergular length (a) similar to length of suture between pectorals (b).

Broad-shelled river turtle
(Chelodina expansa)
SOCI code: BSRT

Nuchal usually present.
No pointed spikes on neck.
Smooth, flat scales behind eye.

Saw-shelled turtle
(Wollumbinia latisternum)
SOCI code: ST

No stripes on legs or neck.
Freshwater turtles of Queensland

Emydura

Wollumbinia

Trachemys

Elseya
Freshwater turtles of Queensland

Rheodytes

Chelodina canni/longicollis

Elusor

Chelodina rugosa/expansa