

Media Release:

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Insight into the World of Sea Turtles

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) marine biodiversity research scientist Dr Scott Whiting will be presenting a public lecture on the biology of sea turtles at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) this Wednesday, 17 December 2008 at 6.30pm.

“This lecture, sponsored by the Sea Turtle Foundation from Townsville, is part of a series leading up to the 29th Annual International Sea Turtle Symposium, to be held in Brisbane from 17-19 February 2009,” Dr Whiting said.

“The aim of the symposium is to bring people together to exchange information to advance the global knowledge of sea turtle biology and conservation.

“The talk I’ll be delivering at MAGNT will offer people the opportunity to learn more about the biology of all the sea turtles species, particularly those we work with in the Northern Territory including the Olive Ridley turtle, Hawksbill turtle, Flatback turtle and Green Sea turtles.

“I will describe the unique life cycle, migratory behaviour and many interesting examples from several species.”

Dr Whiting said all species of marine turtles have the same general life cycle, they grow slowly and take decades to reach sexual maturity, at around 20-50 years of age male and female turtles migrate to a nesting area located in the region of their birth, before mating with a number of partners.

“Some recent examples of the migratory behaviour of sea turtles from the Northern Territory include an Olive Ridley turtle that travelled over 1100 km and Green Sea turtles that were tagged at Cobourg Peninsula travelling all the way to Indonesia and the Gulf of Carpentaria,” Dr Whiting said.

“People can visit www.seaturtle.org/tracking for daily updates on where these particular turtles are travelling to.

“I will also discuss the threats turtles face in northern Australia and some current research projects that are underway.”

The talk is free and is suitable for students, families and anyone interested in the marine environment.

For more information about the public lecture phone 8920 9221.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Scott Whiting on 89209 221

Image – Olive Ridley turtle

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