

### Estuarine crocodile nest and egg monitoring

*This guideline informs holders of a commercial wildlife harvesting licence for estuarine crocodile eggs how to complete the requirements for monitoring and reporting of crocodile egg harvesting activities.*

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This guideline outlines how to undertake consistent monitoring and reporting in order to assist the holder of a commercial wildlife harvesting licence for estuarine crocodile eggs to complete their record book and return of operations accurately.
- 1.2 Accurate and consistent monitoring and reporting is important to help the Department of Environment and Science (the department) to assess the ongoing sustainability of egg harvesting activities in Queensland.
- 1.3 The tables referred to in this document are those contained in the Record book and return of operations - Commercial wildlife harvesting licence - estuarine crocodile eggs.
- 1.4 Licence holders should refer to the Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2018, Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2017 and Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 for the relevant legislative provisions regarding the requirements for monitoring crocodile nests and recording crocodile egg harvesting activities.
- 1.5 As crocodiles are dangerous animals, all monitoring activities must be conducted with safety as the paramount consideration. Personnel should not put themselves or others in any position of excessive danger.

#### 2 Nest monitoring

- 2.1 The purpose of nest monitoring is to provide information on where the nests are located and how many eggs were found in each nest.
- 2.2 Information must be recorded for all nests inspected for the purposes of taking estuarine crocodile eggs under a commercial wildlife harvesting licence. Each egg taken must be recorded.
- 2.3 For each nest inspected, the following information must be recorded in Table 1 on the day the nest is inspected:
  - 2.3.1 Date the nest was inspected e.g. dd/mm/yyyy.
  - 2.3.2 A unique identifier for each nest e.g. CP1 (for the first nest inspected on the Chapman River), CP2 (for the second nest inspected on the Chapman River).
  - 2.3.3 The location of each nest, for example, the name of the relevant waterway, such as the Chapman River.
  - 2.3.4 Latitude and longitude coordinates e.g. -14.916067, 141.633899.

- 2.3.5 The condition of the nest e.g. eggs are present, no eggs are present, eggs have hatched or there are signs of the nest being preyed upon.
- 2.3.6 Number of eggs taken from the nest e.g. 48.
- 2.3.7 Number of eggs remaining in the nest e.g. if the nest had 50 eggs, but only 48 were taken because the remainder were not viable, record that 2 eggs remained in the nest.

### **3 Egg monitoring**

- 3.1 The purpose of egg monitoring is to provide information on whom the eggs were sold or given to, and whether any eggs were not sold or given away because they were identified as not viable.
- 3.2 Each time eggs are sold or given to an authorised buyer, the following information must be recorded in Table 2 on the day the eggs are sold or given away:
  - 3.2.1 The date the eggs are sold or given away e.g. dd/mm/yyyy.
  - 3.2.2 The name, address and contact details of the authorised buyer e.g. John Smith, 1 Main Street, Anytown, Qld, mobile 0123 456 789.
  - 3.2.3 Details of the identification used to verify the identity of the authorised buyer, including the identifying features e.g. Queensland driver's licence, number 012 345 678.
  - 3.2.4 Details of the authority held by the authorised buyer e.g. Wildlife farming licence, permit number WIWF12345678.
  - 3.2.5 The numbers of eggs sold or given to them e.g. 213.
- 3.3 If any eggs are identified as not viable prior to sale, the following information must be recorded in Table 3 on the day they are identified as not viable:
  - 3.4.1 The date the eggs were identified as not viable e.g. dd/mm/yyyy.
  - 3.4.2 The number of eggs that were identified as not viable e.g. 2.

### **4 Reporting requirements**

- 4.1 Licence holders are required to:
  - 4.1.1 Submit a signed and dated copy of the Record book and return of operations - Commercial wildlife harvesting licence - estuarine crocodile eggs (attached) to the department no later than 30 business days after the last transaction for the harvest season or the expiry of the licence (whichever is earliest). All information must be complete and accurate.
  - 4.1.2 Keep a copy of all records and completed returns at the licensed premises.
  - 4.1.3 When no eggs are taken during a harvest period, a nil return must be submitted to the department.