

SALTWATER CROCODILE

Crocodylus porosus

The Saltwater (or Estuarine) crocodile is the biggest species of crocodile & the largest living reptile in the world. Adult males are on average 4 to 5m long & weigh more than 450 kg; females are smaller, generally around 3m & up to 150 kg. The upper body is grey, brown or almost black, with irregular mottling and they are generally whitish on the underside. An adult Saltwater crocodile has 65-67 teeth & is believed to have the greatest bite pressure of any living animal.

DISTRIBUTION & HABITAT

'Salties' are found in Australian coastal waters, estuaries, lakes, inland swamps & marshes. The species' distribution ranges from Broome in WA through the Northern Territory to Townsville in Queensland & occasionally further south. They can also live in freshwater.

DIET

Adults are known to prey on a variety of species, including mud crabs, birds, sea turtles, fish, flying foxes, dingoes, cats, dogs, pigs, buffalo, cattle & horses. When hunting, they lie in wait partially submerged or completely underwater - able to hold their breath for 10-15 minutes reducing their heart rate to just 2-3 beats per minute.



LIFE EXPECTANCY & BREEDING

Saltwater crocodiles can live for 80 - 100 years. They mate & reproduce during the wet season from November to March. A female will lay up to 50 eggs in nests along riverbanks, where they incubate for about 3 months before hatching.

CONSERVATION STATUS

VULNERABLE (QLD) | SPECIALLY PROTECTED WA (EPBC)

