



Concerns for turtles after floods

BRISBANE - There are grave concerns for the welfare of sea turtles living off the coast of southeast Queensland as pollution from the Brisbane floods washes out into the ocean.

Marine biologist Kathy Townsend is heading a "Turtles in Trouble" research project with the Earthwatch Institute and the University of Queensland.

Sea turtles frequently die after

choking on plastic bags and rubbish, Dr Townsend said.

She said the rubbish that washed down the Brisbane River and out to sea during the January floods would cause problems for sea turtles in coming months.

"The additional amount of flood debris that has been washed into Moreton Bay and surrounds ... means the turtles are high-risk," Dr Townsend said.