

Table 1: Turtle casualty on the Devi coast from Devi river to Kadua river mouth from 1999 –2001

| | 1999 - 2000 | 2000 – 2001 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| December | 120 | 535 |
| January | 963 | 833 |
| February | 236 | 714 |
| March | 114 | 194 |
| Total | 1433 | 2276 |

The main achievements of this programme are

1. The country fishermen were enlightened about the role of the sea turtles in marine ecosystems

2. They were also made aware of the provisions of law regarding marine fisheries and the reservation of an exclusive fishing zone for them

Conclusion

Despite financial and infrastructure constraints, better protection is given to the turtle population to turtles in the Devi river coast by actively involving the district administration. Much is needed to be done towards upgradation of the enforcement and involving local fishermen in turtle protection. The area has to be declared as protected to strengthen the legal provisions. Use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) at Nuagadh and Paradeep has to be enforced strictly

NEWS AND REPORTS

Satellite Telemetry of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles on the East Coast of India

Source: GOI UNDP Sea Turtle Project

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Though sea turtles have been the focus of conservation attention and scientific research for decades, much about these ancient animals is still unknown to us. This is particularly true of the mass nesting populations in Orissa. Foremost amongst these questions is where do these turtles migrate after they have nested in large numbers on the coast of Orissa ? Sea turtles are known to migrate thousands of kilometres across international waters. Satellite telemetry is now being used to track olive ridley turtles which nest on the coast of Orissa to study their long range migrations and foraging areas. This is a collaborative project between the Orissa Forest

Department and the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, made possible by the GOI UNDP sea turtle project of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Dr. Jack Frazier of the Conservation and Research Center, Smithsonian Institution is providing technical assistance on the project. From April 17 –19, 2001, 4 nesting sea turtles were fitted with the satellite transmitters. The first of the turtles was named ‘Chandra’ after Dr. Chandrasekhar Kar, well known turtle biologist of the Orissa Forest Department. The four turtles have been transmitting data which is being analysed and mapped at the Wildlife Institute of India (an updated map is available at <http://www.wii.gov.in>)

A National Workshop For The Development Of A National Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan For India

Source: GOI UNDP Sea Turtle Project

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A national workshop on sea turtles was conducted at Bhubaneshwar from April 9 –10, 2001 with about 100 participants including Forest and Fisheries

Department officials from most coastal states, academic institutions, agencies involved in the UNDP sea turtle project, and many individuals interested in