

## Rare occurrence of leatherback turtle at Visakhapatnam

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Nesting of olive ridley turtles have been reported frequently along Visakhapatnam coast but there are few reports of leatherback turtle along this coast. On 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, a leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* accidentally entangled in a monofilament gill net operated by a country craft at 30 to 40 m depths at Mutyalammappalem about 50 km south of Visakhapatnam, was brought to the landing centre by fishermen. Later it was released back into the sea. The weight of turtle was 320 kg. Morphometric measurements were recorded as given below

Total length	188 cm
Carapace length	160 cm
Carapace width	76 cm
Flipper length	82 cm
Head length	28 cm



Leatherback turtle landed at Visakhapatnam

Leatherback turtles belong to the family Dermochelyidae. They are categorized as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List ([www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)) and are incorporated into Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife

(Protection) Act, 1972. They are also recorded in Appendix-I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and

Flora) and Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).