

Rescue of stranded Hawksbill turtle in Kollam, Kerala

Paulose Jacob Peter, T. G. Kishor, T. Retheesh, K. J. Reshma and T. G. Sumithra
ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi-682 018, Kerala

On 27th March, 2019, fisher folks of Kakkathoppu, a coastal area of Kollam district in Kerala, India, found a Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), stranded in the rocky seashore (Fig1). The turtle was live female that weighed approximately 50 kg having a carapace length of 48 cm. According to the local fishermen, the turtle was unable to swim back to sea due to ruptured carapace and fatigued condition. On primary evaluation, barnacles were observed to be covering a part of its body and the carapace as well as head region were found exposed to sunburn. No further

lesions were detected on external surface of the turtle. Further, the mouth and nostrils were examined carefully for the presence of foreign bodies that may choke the upper respiratory tract of the animal and affect breathing. It was found to be clear and breathing pattern was observed to be usual for the animal. Further investigations indicated that swimming and floating mode was normal and general conditions of the animal was good. After recording the data, the turtle was released back into the sea.



Fig. 1. Stranded female Hawksbill turtle with ruptured carapace indicated