

## Olive ridley turtle stranded at Bheemunipatnam, Visakhapatnam

The coastline of Andhra Pradesh is one of the important sporadic nesting habitats of olive ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The species is known to nest on the northern Andhra Pradesh coast which encompasses

three districts namely Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam. Olive ridley turtles are categorised as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2010) and are included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife

(Protection) Act, 1972. This coast may also serve as an intermediate developmental habitat for sub-adult ridley turtles and for juvenile and sub-adult green turtles *Chelonia mydas*.

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012, a dead Olive

ridley turtle was found washed ashore near Bheemunipatnam, south of Visakhapatnam. An injury mark was present on the head of the specimen and it is suspected that death was caused by incidental capture and drowning. Intensive fishing takes place near-shore between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam, a distance of nearly 25 km. The curve carapace length and weight of the turtle was 70 cm and a 35-40 kg respectively. From morphometric measurement it appeared that the turtle was adult male.

(Reported by Pralaya Ranjan Behera, Scientist, Visakhapatnam RC)



Olive ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*