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Conservation programme for marine turtle, olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) at Dabholi-Waingani landing centre of MH-1 Zone, Maharashtra

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During the survey tour at Dabholi-Waingani landing centre on 18/12/07 and 19/12/07, it was understood that preservation of Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) eggs was carried out by a local person Mr. Suhas Toraskar who is a member of the Sea Security Force. His procedure of turtle eggs conservation is as follows.

The eggs were kept buried inside the sand on the seashore taking care that the high-tide water may not damage the eggs. The net was applied using the

wooden poles so that the eggs remain protected from dogs, jackals etc. The hatchlings come up after 45 to 55 days pushing the sand aside. This person gets guidance from Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra, Chiplun (Ratnagiri) and Forest Department of Maharashtra (Sindhudurg District).

On 22/03/08, a visit was made to this centre to collect this data and confirmed that these hatchlings belonged to the species *Lepidochelys olivacea* as it has seven lateral scutes on dorsal side. The

Number of eggs protected		Number of hatchlings released		
Date	No. of eggs protected	Date	Incubation period	No. of hatchlings released
09/12/07	120	02/02/08	55 days	117
02/01/08	103	02/03/08 to 05/03/08	60 to 63 days	76
26/01/08	Not counted	22/03/08	56 days	56
01/02/08	Not counted	27/03/08	55 days	103
08/02/08	105	28/03/08	49 days	103
22/02/08	121	15/04/08	53 days	84
26/02/08	74	15/04/08	49 days	66
28/02/08	108	15/04/08	47 days	97
13/03/08	101	30/04/08	48 days	51
Total	732			753

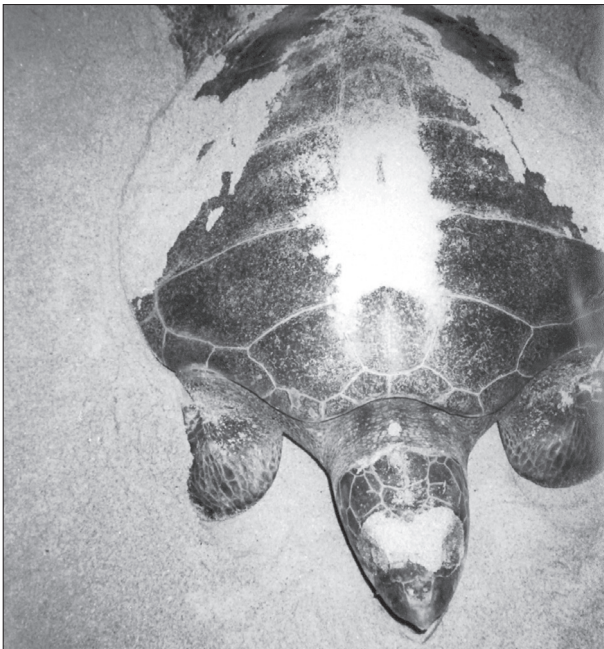


Fig. 1. Turtle - at the time of nesting



Fig. 2. Turtle hatchlings

information on collected eggs and hatchlings released are given in the table.

On 22/03/08, fifty six hatchlings were released carefully into the sea. The photographs taken during this visit are also shown in Fig. 1 and 2.