



# Marine Fisheries Information Service

200<sup>th</sup>  
Number

Technical and Extension Series

Number 200

April - June 2009



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## Recovery of an injured hawksbill turtle in Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri

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Hawksbill turtle

A turtle in moribund state was drifted ashore at Dabholi-Waingani landing centre in Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra on 02.05.2008 at about 1600 hrs. It was covered with algae and showed very feeble movements. On cleaning, it was found that the turtle had many injuries, probably due to drifting in rocky intertidal area where it was tossed and trapped among the boulders. A local fisherman brought the turtle to the protected part of the shore and nursed it for 20 days. The turtle was fed with hen's egg and glucose solution using syringe in the beginning and later with chopped pieces of fish. After

full recovery, the turtle was handed over to the forest department personnel and released back to the sea.

Morphological characters showing oval carapace with imbricate scutes and head with 2 pairs of prefrontal scutes and strong horny beak made it easy to identify the turtle as hawksbill, *Eretmochelys imbricata*. The carapace length was 36 cm and it weighed about 5 kg. Generally along the sandy beaches of Sindhudurg Districts, olive ridley turtles and their nestings are seen but the occurrence of hawksbill is rare.