

# Marine Fisheries Information Service



Technical and  
Extension Series



Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute  
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)  
Post Box No. 1603, Cochin - 682 018  
[www.cmfri.org.in](http://www.cmfri.org.in)



# A report on the olive ridley turtle eggs found at Janjira Murud region of Raigad, Maharashtra

Ramesh B. Rao

Alibag Field Centre of CMFRI, Alibag

**T**he olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is one of the smallest species of sea turtles. They have a high domed shell, with carapace having a dark olive green colour with yellowish underside. The carapace margins are smooth and is made up of five pairs of costal scutes, with occurrence of up to 6-9 divisions per side. The head is large.

The ridley turtles have a peculiar habit of mass arrival to the shore known as "arribada" (arrival). They make four to seven nests having a large number of eggs per nesting season. A recent case of poaching on turtle eggs was noticed in Janjira Murud region of Raigad district of Maharashtra, where one out of three number of nests each bearing about 100 -115 eggs, was destroyed overnight (Fig. 1). Conservation efforts by the local NGOs of Janjira Murud and Chiplun region of Ratnagiri District, helped to protect the remaining nests by erecting wooden fence and mounting nylon nets on them. These NGOs are also taking care of

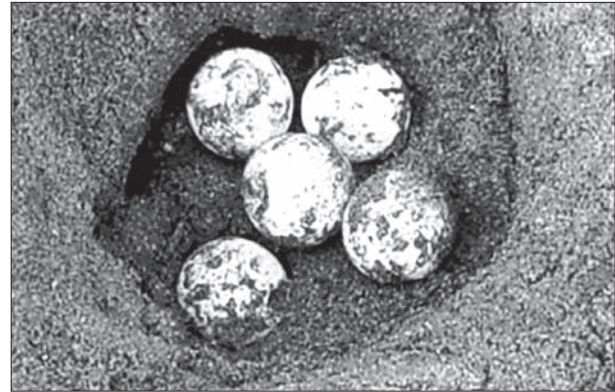


Fig. 1. Eggs of the Olive ridley turtle, *Lepidochelys olivacea* at Janjira Murud, Maharashtra

other endangered reptiles and marine mammals like dolphins and whales in that area. The plight of the olive ridley and other sea turtles has been recognized around the world, and many organizations and governments are working to preserve these ancient creatures.