

Multiple carcasses of Olive Ridleys along Malvan Beach

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The Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is protected under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Maharashtra government along with NGOs are undertaking several efforts in conservation of sea turtles along the coast. There is a state sponsored incentive program of ₹500 for locating and sharing information with forest officials. Malvan coast in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra is known for turtle and fisheries interactions. Occasional turtle nestings can be seen between November to April. During 20.03.2019 to 27.03.2019, a total of six adult turtle carcasses were observed in the 5 km stretch of beaches

between Dandi and Tarkarli beach. First specimen was observed on Dandi beach near Malvan on 20.03.2019. Subsequently, carcasses of two turtles were found on the beach of Wairi and Tarkarli fishing villages located in southern Malvan. Most of the specimens were partially decomposed even though specimen was identified as Olive ridley from the intact scute pattern on carapace. Morphometric characteristics measured to possible extent are detailed. Carapace length of specimens ranged from 64 to 71 cm. No specimen was found entangled in ghost net or with any injury marks.

Morphometric measurements (in cm) of Olive Ridley carcasses located at various beaches

Morphometric measurements	Dandi	Wairi	Tarkarli
Carapace length (Straight)	65	71	64
Carapace width	52	63	50
Head length	-	24	27
Head width	-	14	15
Tail length	-	13	14



Specimen 1. Dandi beach



Specimen 2. Wairi beach



Specimen 3. Tarkarli beach

During the nesting season many turtles approaching beach for nesting are often caught in fishing gears, though mostly released due to high awareness among the fishers. The chances of injuries affecting the swimming capacity and stranding on the beaches

later, resulting in death is high. Though fishermen are aware of the conservation status of animals and supporting actions, they voice the opinion that turtles are increasing in the coastal waters and often affecting the fishing activities.