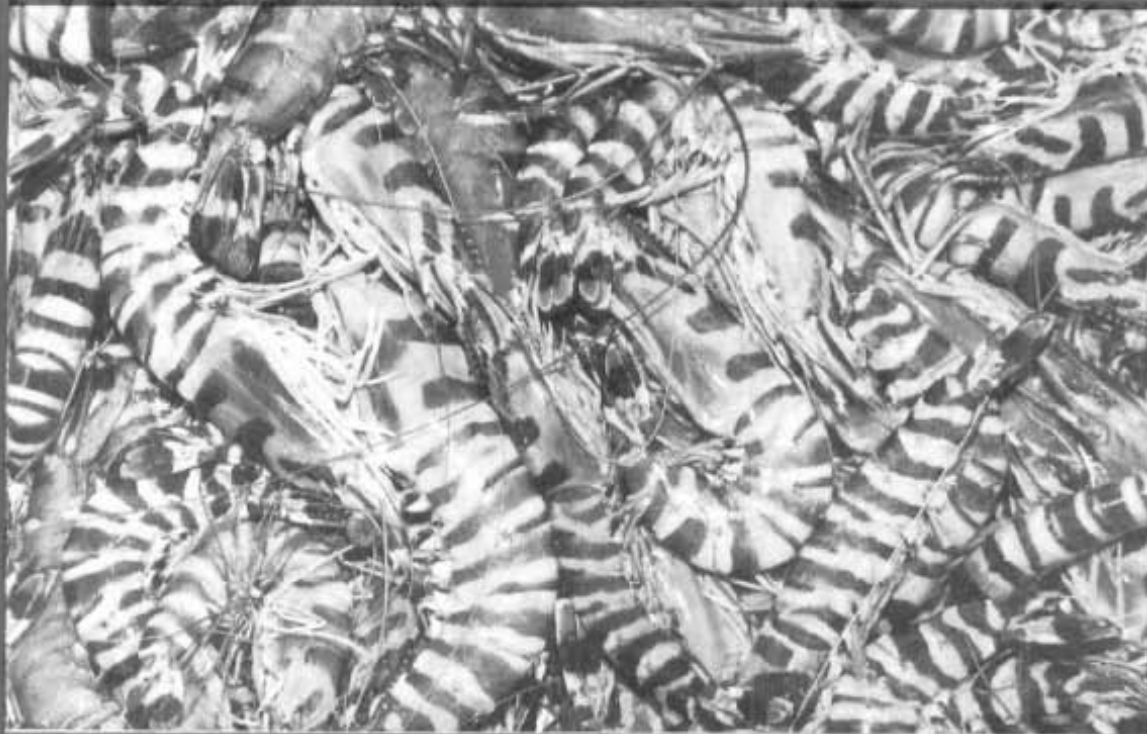




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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**949 On a green turtle *Chelonia mydas*
washed ashore at Minicoy Island,
Lakshadweep**

A green turtle was washed ashore on 10-8-'98 about 1 km south of the Lakshadweep Harbour Works at Minicoy. Carapace had a cut measuring 25 cm which had cracked the anterior portion of the carapace. The ventral side also had an injury at the neck and the internal parts were exposed. The injury may have been caused by a boat propeller. The morphometric measurements (in cm) are given below.

Total length	150
Carapace length	92
Carapace width	81
Plastron length	70
Plastron width	61
Anterior flipper length	47
Posterior flipper length	36
Head width	14
Weight (Approx. in kg)	100
Sex	Male



Fig.1. *Chelonia mydas* washed ashore at Minicoy.



Fig.2. Injury and cracks on the carapace.

Information on the landings and beaching of turtles from Lakshadweep are rare. Out of the four species of turtles found in Lakshadweep, *Chelonia mydas* is common with the distribution throughout the Archipelago. Nesting islands for this species are Suheli Cheriyakara and Valtiyakara, Bangaram, Tinnakara and Parali and the primary nesting period is June-September (Bhaskar 1984, *CMFRI Spl. Publ.*, No. 18, 21-35). At Minicoy, this species is reported to have nested in thousands in the past. Presently, the nesting area has been considerably reduced due to human inhabitation. However, sightings of egg laying females have been reported from the southern and northern ends of the island. A mating pair was noticed close to the shore on the northern side on 15.10.'98. Some nests were noticed at this site but they did not contain any eggs. The islanders believe that the eggs are consumed by crabs which burrow into the pit.



Fig.3. Wound on ventral side at the base of neck.

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