



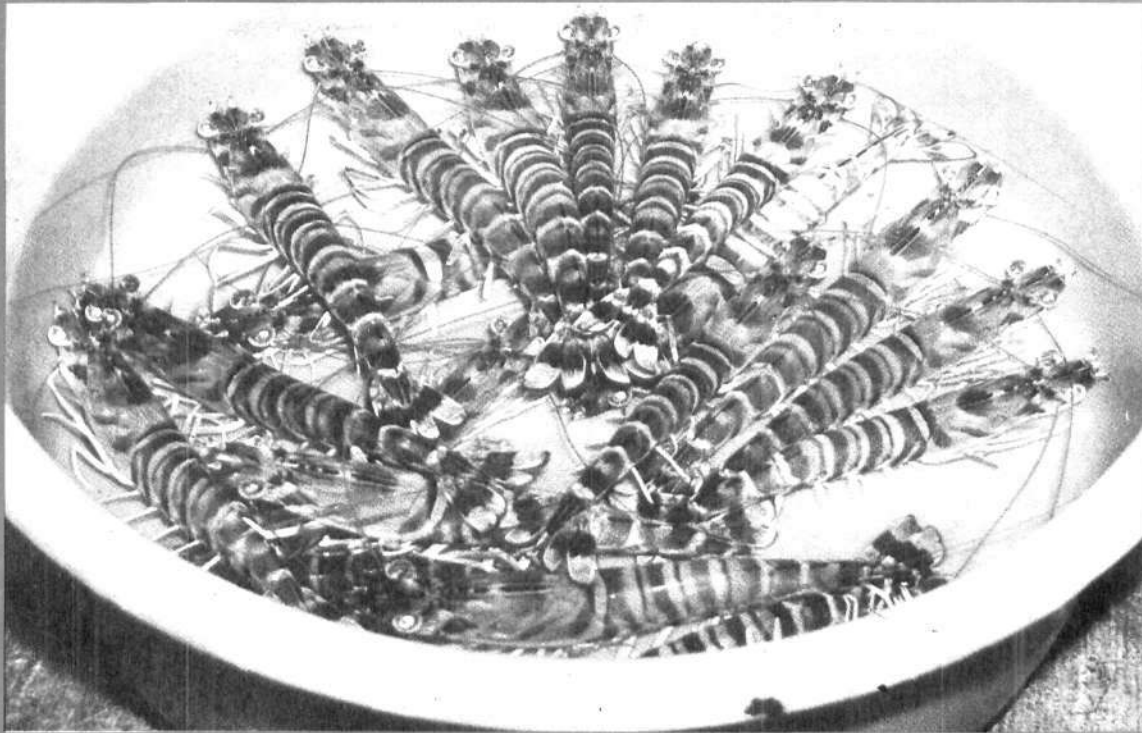
समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



No. 152



JANUARY 1998



तकनीकी एवं
विस्तार अंकावली

TECHNICAL AND
EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी
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832 Nesting of turtles along the Ganjam District, Orissa

Every year hundreds of turtles especially the Olive ridley, *Leptochelys olivacea* used to emerge from the sea for laying eggs in the loose sandy beaches between Rushikulya river mouth bordered by south of Gokurk-huda and north of Bada Nagogaon landing centres and Bahuda river mouth bordered by south of Ramnayapattana and north of Anantaraipur landing centres of the Ganjam district, Orissa. Thousands of turtle eggs were found spread over in the loose sands of this coastal stretch (Fig. 1). Since this vast area is guarded by a single watchman it is not possible to protect the eggs from predation by dogs and birds.

At Purunabondho village, nearly 7 km south of Gokurkhuda landing centre a few live young Olive ridley turtles were found kept in plastic containers ready for release into the sea (Fig. 2).

Reported by S. Hemasundara Rao, Gopalpur Field Centre of CMFRI, Gopalpur - 761 002.



Fig.1 Turtle eggs spread over a vast area on the sandy beaches.

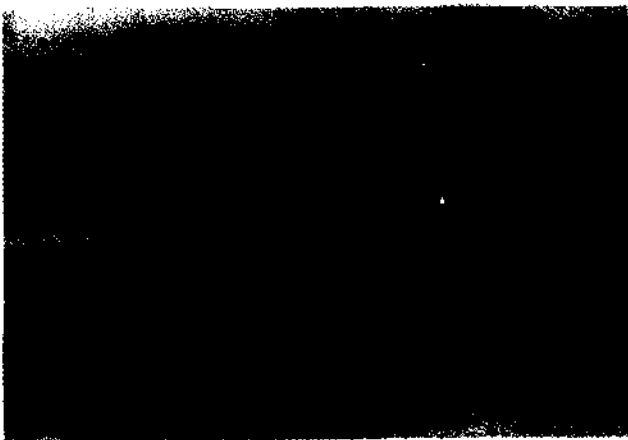


Fig. 2. Predation on turtle eggs by dogs and birds.



Fig.3. Young live olive ridleys in containers before release to sea.