

Literature Cited

- Bache, S.J. & J. Frazier. In press. International instruments and marine turtle conservation. In: *Sea turtles of the Indian subcontinent* (eds. K. Shanker & B.C. Choudhury) Universities Press, Hyderabad. India.
- Government of Orissa. 1998. 'Minutes of the Meeting of the High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa on Protection of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles'
- Kar, C.S. 2001. Review of threats to sea turtles in Orissa. In: *Proceedings of the Workshop for the development of a National Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan, Bhubaneswar, Orissa* (eds. K. Shanker & B.C. Choudhury), pp 15-19. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- OTFWU. 2004. Letter to the Central Empowered Committee, dated 19th February 2004
- Pandav, B. 2000. *Conservation & management of olive ridley sea turtles on the Orissa coast. PhD thesis.* Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, India.
- Pandav, B & B.C. Choudhury. 1999. An update on the mortality of the olive ridley sea turtles in Orissa, India. *Marine Turtle Newsletter* 83: 10-12.
- Pandav, B., B.C. Choudhury & K. Shanker. 1998. The olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in Orissa : An urgent call for a intensive and integrated conservation programme. *Current Science* 75: 1323-1328.
- Shanker, K. & R. Kutty. *in press.* Sailing the flagship fantastic: myth and reality of sea turtle conservation in India. *Maritime Studies (Special Issue)*
- Shanker, K., J. Ramadevi, B.C. Choudhury, L. Singh and R.K. Aggarwal. 2004a. Phylogeography of olive ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) on the east coast of India : implications for conservation theory. *Molecular Ecology* 13: 1899-1909.
- Shanker, K., B. Pandav & B.C. Choudhury. 2004b. An assessment of olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) nesting population in Orissa, India. *Biological Conservation* 115: 149-160.
- Tripathy, B. 2004. *A study of the offshore distribution of olive ridley turtles (Lepidochelys olivacea) in the coastal waters of Rushikulya rookery along the Orissa coast, India.* Wildlife Conservation Society – India Program Small Grant, Centre For Wildlife Studies, Bangalore, India.
- Wright, B. & B. Mohanty. 2002. Olive ridley mortality in gill nets in Orissa. *Kachhapa* 6:18.

Perspectives of the Traditional Fishworkers on Sea Turtle Conservation

K. Aleya

*Secretary, Orissa Traditional Fish Worker's Union, Ganjam
Sana Aryapali, PO: Bada Aryapali, Via: Ganjam, Orissa, 761 020
E-mail: otfwu@hotmail.com*

The Orissa Traditional Fish Worker's Union (OTFWU) is the largest union in the State representing the interests of traditional fishworkers of Orissa. Recently the union has actively advocated for the traditional fishworkers stating that excessive turtle conservation measures have impacted their livelihoods. We have articulated our responses to the official sea turtle conservation measures in Orissa. Key points of the appeal by OTFWU to the Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee, dated 19th February 2004 are detailed

below:

- The present system of protection solely entrusts the forest department with powers that are often abused at the village level.
- Traditional fishermen must be made partners in conservation efforts at all levels.
- No traditional fishing gear should be banned without adequate and scientific study and data.

- Fishworkers displaced due to ban on any particular gear should be provided with adequate financial assistance for shifting to any other allowable gear.
- OTFWU will voluntarily ban the use of 3 types of nets that trap turtles.
- Areas within the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary that do not have turtle congregations should be declared as buffer areas. Within these buffer areas the existing fishing restrictions need to be revised to allow traditional fishing practices that do not impact turtles.
- In case of a complete ban on any particular area for a particular period, all affected fishermen of that area must be compensated for the loss of income for the same period. Adequate financial allocations for this purpose must be a component of the conservation program.
- Traditional fisherfolk using traditional gears should be differentiated from mechanised gears like trawl nets.
- For each of the turtle congregation areas, joint management/ monitoring committees comprising of traditional fishermen, officials and scientists should be formed. This committee should decide upon the exact period, nature and extent of restriction on fishing activities depending upon field observations.
- The OTFWU also states that following fisheries management measures need to be undertaken as part of a more holistic marine conservation approach:
 - Stop collection of prawn seeds from sea and creeks.
 - Stop intensive aquaculture in the coastal zone as per the SC judgment by Justice Kuldip Singh, 1996.
 - Strict implementation of monsoon ban on trawling from 15th June to 31st August.
 - Enact National Marine Fishing Regulation Act to cover entire EEZ.
 - Diversify the existing trawlers and mechanised fleet to harvest deep-sea resources and thereby reduce overcapacity in traditional waters.
 - Stop water pollution from industrial establishments, sewerage, tourism, commercial ports and oil exploration etc.
 - Bring about aquatic reform conferring rights to the traditional fishing community to own and manage water bodies, fishing crafts and gears and distribution/ marketing of fish.

Turtle conservation from the perspective of Orissa's trawling industry

Project Swarajya

Ganesh Ghat, Bakharabad, Cuttack-753002, Orissa

E-mail: projectswarajya@sify.com

Over the years, the trawler associations of Orissa through their representatives have been expressing their reactions towards turtle conservation measures enforced by the Government. These have ranged from outright rejection of the theory that holds trawling to be the major cause of turtle mortality, to making suggestions for conservation measures that meets their interests and involves them in field level implementation. In one instance i.e. in a Workshop-cum-Demonstration on Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) held at Paradip in February 2002, the representatives of trawler associations of the State articulated their position vis-à-vis the turtle related fishing restrictions and made quite elaborate

and vociferous statements. From these communications, their overall concerns can be figured out. Based on these statements and also from informal discussions intermittently held with the trawler associations since then, we may sum up their overall concerns as follows:

- Indian trawlers should not be forced to use any prototypes or modified designs of TEDs, since these are American innovations, which are useful only for targeted shrimp trawling which takes place in US waters. These are not suited for India where mixed trawling of shrimp, fish and crab of different varieties and sizes of catch goes on. This