

### IDENTIFICATION

Olive Ridley Turtle is a marine turtle. It is distinguished by the presence of five or more coastal shields on carapace. Marginal shields on carapace 27, rarely 25 carapace of the young with three distinct keels. Adult turtle has Olive-brown above and yellowish below colour. Grows to a carapace length of about one meter.

### FOOD

It is omnivorous. Feeds on dead fish, crabs and other crustacean and soft parts of molluscs.

### HABITS

Migrates of thousands of Kilometres, comes to shore for nesting mostly during nights.

### BREEDING

Mating takes place off-shore of the nesting beaches. Turtles come to shore during high tide time.

The turtle dig the sand to a depth of about 1', lay normally 74 to 120 eggs in a clutch. Egg will be soft and smooth for 3 to 4 days. Then shell becomes hard. Egg will be of about 3.5 cm in diameter. After completing the laying the turtle close the pit with sand with its hind legs and cover the sand in such a way that there wont be any marks on the ground. And it also dig at second place and makes it like

the actual nest so as to mislead the predators.

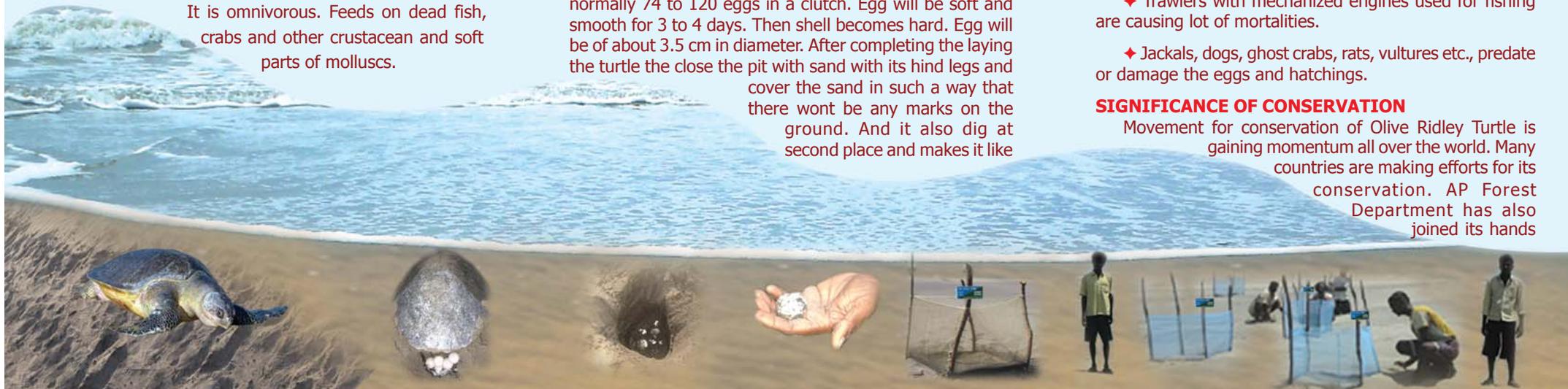
Incubation period is normally 45-51 days and the young hatchlings take another 4 to 6 days to come out of the sand.

### THREATS

- ◆ Human consumption or damage is the leading threat.
- ◆ Trawlers with mechanized engines used for fishing are causing lot of mortalities.
- ◆ Jackals, dogs, ghost crabs, rats, vultures etc., predate or damage the eggs and hatchings.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF CONSERVATION

Movement for conservation of Olive Ridley Turtle is gaining momentum all over the world. Many countries are making efforts for its conservation. AP Forest Department has also joined its hands



for conservation of Olive Ridley Turtle under Bio-diversity component of CAMPA-NPV Scheme.

### **EFFORTS IN KAKINADA DIVISION**

An amount of Rs.2.00 lakhs has been allotted to Kakinada Division for breeding of Olive Ridley Turtle during the year 2010-11.

Nesting sites are identified at Kandikuppa and Vontimamidi. Protection Helpers 12 nos are engaged for Protection of Olive Ridley Turtle eggs. The eggs are protected 'in situ'. The Helpers stay and keep watch all the 24 hours in the nesting grounds.

Soon after the Turtle found laying eggs, the helpers put net around the nest in a size of 2' x 2' to a height of 2 above ground level and 1 foot below ground level, label the nest with serial number and date and keep watch on the nests to avoid threat from predators and

human beings.

When the hatchlings come out of the sand they will be released into the sea. So far 154 nests are identified at Kandikuppa and 5 in Vontimamidi. GPS positions are recorded for each nest.

The Wild Life Division, Rajahmundry is also working on ex-situ and in-situ conservation of turtle nests. They are collecting and protecting the nests at Kandikuppa and Hope Island.

The efforts put in by the dedicated staff of Kakinada Division will certainly go a long way in conservation of Olive Ridley Turtle.

## **CAMPA-NPV-BIO-DIVERSITY**

### **IN-SITU CONSERVATION OF OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE**

### **KAKINADA DIVISION**

