

Olive Ridley turtles

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In news

WII to conduct a study on Olive Ridley turtles and their movement

About Olive Ridley turtles

- The name for this sea turtle is tied to the colour of its shell—an olive green hue.
- The Olive ridley turtles are the **most abundant of all sea turtles** found in the world,
- **Habitat:** They inhabit **warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.**
- These turtles, along with their cousin the Kemp's ridley turtle, are best known for their unique **mass nesting called Arribada**, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
- These turtles spend their entire lives in the ocean and migrate thousands of kilometres between feeding and mating grounds in the course of a year.
- Though international trade in these turtles and their products is banned under **CITES Appendix I**, they are still extensively poached for their meat, shell and leather, and their eggs, though illegal to harvest, have a significantly large market around the coastal regions.
- The **most severe threat they face is the accidental killing of adult turtles through entanglement in trawl nets** and gill nets due to uncontrolled fishing during their mating season around nesting beaches.
- To reduce the accidental killing in India, the Odisha government has made it **mandatory for trawls to use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).**
- **Rushikulya rookery coast in the Ganjam district of Odisha, Gahirmatha beach (Bhitarkanika National park)**

and the mouth of the Debi River are the major nesting sites in Odisha.

- **IUCN status:** Vulnerable